

Disability Now

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Orange badge victory

Sandwell Council has backed down over plans to charge disabled people £10 for Orange Badge permits. The social services department said the fee was needed to cover administrative costs. Disability Network, a Coventry resource centre and advocacy bureau, wrote to the council in April saying that the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 states that local authorities cannot charge more than £2 for the badges. Helen Johnson of Disability Network commented: "We hope other councils with similar plans take note and realise they cannot get away with such illegal actions." A council spokesman said they would now be charging £2 for three years. Anyone incorrectly charged will receive a refund and an apology from the department.



Hello folks! One child's dream comes true. But how did the disabled kids get on? See page 15.

Integration fears mount

Ten years after the 1981 Education Act came into force, there is disturbing new evidence that integration is threatened by lack of resources and the Government's education reforms. New Education Secretary John Patten has pledged to give special needs "urgent priority". The 1981 Act gave local authorities a duty to integrate. But a new survey of segregation statistics by the Centre for Studies on Integration in Education (CSIE) shows a rise of more than two per cent in the proportion of children aged five-11 going to special schools between 1988 and 1991. In contrast, there was a drop of two per cent in the proportion of 11-15-year-olds in special schools. The survey, published during Integration Week (11-17 May), was based on data from the Education Department. "The setback at primary school level is a new and alarming development," said CSIE founder Mark Vaughan. He thinks the rise could be due to assessments brought in by the 1988 Education Reform Act. "We believe some schools may be excluding those pupils they regard as "difficult" and diverting them to special schools because they are seen as threatening the academic record of ordinary schools." A report by the Association of Educational Psychologists (AEP), published in April, revealed that primary schools are increasingly prone to exclude certain children, especially those with special needs. President Roger Born said: "The increased pressure on teachers and competition between schools has made them less tolerant of pupils with special needs." John Wright of the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice said: "The 1981 Act imposed new duties but gave no financial help to local authorities. It is vital the Government provides local education authorities with transitional

Continued on page 3

Carers forced to go it alone

Britain's six million carers are suffering emotional, health and financial problems without enough support, say two new reports. A Carers National Association (CNA) survey of 3,000 carers - the biggest yet - says two thirds become ill because of caring, half have money problems and three quarters need more help from professionals. And a Barnardos/CNA survey says children looking after disabled parents are being "left to fend for themselves". The CNA has launched a national campaign called "Listen to Carers" to improve services and encourage professionals and policy makers to acknowledge carers' needs. Among the actions demanded are a Government review of carers' benefits, and at least one information and support project in each local authority. It also asks carers to accept that their needs are important and to plan for the future. The Barnardos/CNA report was based on interviews with 11 carers on Merseyside age nine to 21, 47 professionals, and past research. Most of the carers were females. Professionals tended to look on carers as a "resource", focussing attention on the disabled parent. Carers' needs were not recognised until a crisis brought them into the open. Most young carers had never talked to anyone about their responsibilities. They were wary of doing so for fear the family would be broken up or they would be seen as disloyal. Although 10 out of the 11 went to school regularly, nearly all had taken days off to care. Continued on page 3

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A place in the sun: Rita K Hanford of Pinner in Middlesex relaxes in Help the Aged's garden at the Chelsea Flower Show in May. Designed with the "passive gardener" in mind, it is a communal garden where you can sit and ponder - and forget about the digging. TRACY SCOLLIN

A school for Shelley

Shelley Lynden-Wyatt's parents have finally found the funding to send her to a school that will give her the education she needs (DN, September 1990).

Shelley, 6, of Kettering, who has cerebral palsy, learning difficulties and autism, started at Longdon School for autistic children in Staffordshire last month. Northampton County Council, who assessed her last July, will pay the £50,000 fees.

"We are relieved and delighted that she will be finally get the care and education she needs," said father Fred.

Care minister needed

Doctors and social services chiefs are calling on the Government to appoint a Secretary of State for community care.

The British Medical Association (BMA) and the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) warned last month that the community care reforms, due to be launched on 1 April 1993, will not work unless certain conditions were met.

Among the recommendations set out in the BMA's report *Priorities for Community Care* are:

- * more funding for councils to meet the new demands
- * a specific grant for people with learning disabilities to

make up for "current deficiencies" in provision

* a special carers' benefit to be made available

* money provided to train non-professional carers

* extra funding to be made available to deal with the increasing numbers of people aged 85 and over.

Also last month, a conference on community care at King's Fund College in London called for a "community care charter" to ensure that local services are co-ordinated efficiently.

Priorities for Community Care, £6, BMA, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

Disabled car buyer asked for extra cash

An Edinburgh man is claiming that a leading car dealer asked him for a £500 "sweetener" payment because he was disabled.

James Kerr, a wheelchair user, and his wife Margaret, saw an advertisement in May for Arnold Clark motor dealers, offering cars for 0 per cent finance and 20 per cent down.

They took their 1985 Nissan in to trade for a Peugeot 505 V6 Automatic costing £3,980. Salesman Robert Rae offered them £1,000 for the Nissan, which covered the £796 required under the 20 per cent deposit scheme.

But, according to Mr Kerr, the salesman then said the credit company would require another £500 "as a sweetener because you are disabled".

John Ferguson, Arnold



James Kerr: angry

Clark's area general manager has dismissed Mr Kerr's claims as "nonsense". He said the extra £500 was needed because Mr Kerr was unemployed. It was also to be used to hold the car till Mr Kerr returned from a five-week holiday.

"Everyone knows that all

finance is subject to credit rating. The fact that he was disabled has nothing to do with it. The fact he was unemployed has everything to do with it."

After Mr Kerr complained, he was told his credit application would be forwarded without the extra £500.

Trading Standards officers in Lothian and Strathclyde are now considering whether to recommend prosecution under the 1974 Consumer Credit Act. This states that any restrictions on credit must be clearly stated.

Mr Kerr is carrying on the fight too. "If they offered [the car] to me for nothing, I wouldn't take it."

"They can't treat us like that. If a disabled person is going to have to pay £500 they should have to put that in their ads. How many disabled people have been treated like that before and coughed up the money?"

Have you had a similar experience? Write to DN, and contact your local Trading Standards (see phone book).

Disability Now

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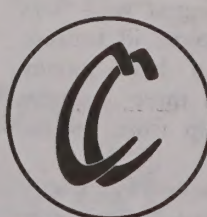
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Charity in crisis

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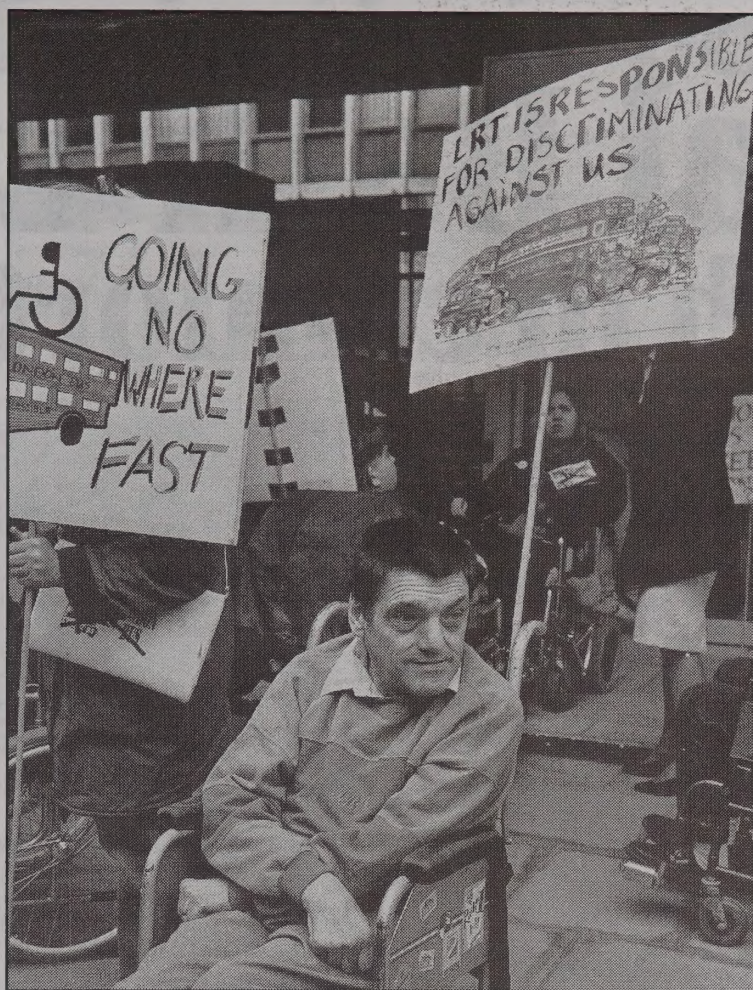
The Association for Research into Multiple Sclerosis (ARMS), founded 18 years ago, has suffered a drop in donations. Chief executive John Simpkins would not disclose exact figures.

ARMS is now trying to put together a rescue package and has suspended work at its research and therapy unit at Central Middlesex Hospital, which sees over 600 people with MS a year.

Services at the charity's 53 therapy centres are continuing as normal.

Mr Simpkins said: "We are taking advice on our financial position. We are not currently in liquidation and steps are being taken to try and enable this to continue."

"We are unfortunately not receiving enough donations because the money is not out there."



Show of strength: disabled people demonstrated at the Department of Transport on Europe Day (5 May) about inaccessibility. The rally was one of over 100 events held throughout Europe to protest about discrimination against disabled people.

THE INDEPENDENT/PETER MACDIARMID

Sheffield nine take on council

Campaigners staged a marathon protest in May to protest at Sheffield city council's decision to stop paying for nine disabled people to attend a day centre.

The nine-hour vigil, by Action Sheffield SDC (Skills and Development Centre) marked an hour for each person excluded from The Spastics Society centre in Oughtibridge.

The council has provided a five-day-a-week community-based service for the nine people.

But the campaign group has criticised the quality of the new service and lack of choice given.

Ron Wilkinson, spokesman for the group, said: "The council don't seem to care. They

have completely ignored the wishes of people who wish to stay at the centre."

The group claims the local authority stopped using Oughtibridge to save money, but a council spokesman said: "We saved little money. Our aim is to provide a more beneficial service, based on individual needs."

Integration fears mount

Continued from page 1

funding to enable them to shift support from special schools to mainstream ones. Unless this money is made available, LEAs will continue to dodge their duty."

Carol Pearce, from Lincoln, has a 12-year-old daughter who has cerebral palsy and went to a special school until last January.

"She only got one 35 minute physiotherapy session a week and was falling behind academically. We asked for her to go to a mainstream school, but when the local authority assessed her, they said she would be better at a special school, so I took her out of the state system and put her in a private school. It seems local education authorities do not think it is important that

disabled children are given a normal education, when in fact they need the best possible education to survive in a very competitive world."

Janet Short from Sheffield said: "The 1981 Act only says authorities should integrate pupils wherever possible... The wording should be stronger because at the moment local authorities are able to do whatever suits them."

She wanted her son, 4, to go to a mainstream nursery, but her LEA said it could not afford to pay for the two days a week support he needed.

"Daniel can walk with sticks and only needs someone there to observe him, but the LEA wants him to go to a special nursery school. I am furious. He will stay at home until they find me a suitable mainstream

school." Alternatively, she will pay for a private school.

The Integration Alliance, which wants all disabled children in mainstream schools, has published an alternative "Inclusive Education Act '92". It seeks special schools abolished, guaranteed funds so LEAs can provide places in mainstream schools and stronger appeal rights for parents who are dissatisfied with decisions.

Demands at its April conference that the National Union of Teachers should take up the cause of full integration were defeated. A spokesman said: "We believe in integration, but only when it is appropriate."

Segregation statistics, £2, CSIE, tel: 081-452 8642. The Inclusive Education System, £1.50, Integration Alliance, tel: 081-682 0543.

them in developing services.

Speak Up, Speak Out, £10, Carers National Association, 29 Chilworth Mews, London W2 3RG. You Grow Up Fast As Well: young carers on Merseyside, by Sandra Bilsborrow, £3.50, Barnardo's Policy and Development Unit, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex.

mum and she'll be all right tonight, you've always got to do something for her. You've never finished the job."

Among the recommendations are that services should consider the needs of young carers separately from the parent or relative, give them a chance to meet each other and get emotional support, and involve

Carers going it alone

Continued from page 1

There was also less time for homework or friends.

One carer, age 15, said: "It gets you down and it wears you down. Sometimes you want to go out and have a laugh. It's not just that. You can't say right I've done that for my

Building rules OK

All floors of new, non-domestic buildings and extensions with a ground storey must be accessible to disabled people, say new building regulations which come into force this month.

The Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE) has welcomed the Government's revised Part M regulations as "an important step forward".

People with impaired sight or hearing will benefit from the regulations for the first time. Hearing aids must now be included in some auditoria, meeting rooms and ticket offices, and there must be warnings of change in level and audible and tactile indicators in some lifts.

Part M also states that one in 20 hotel and motel bedrooms should be suitable for use by disabled people.

CAE chief executive Sarah Langton-Lockton said the regulations would considerably

improve access and facilities for disabled people.

"It is vital buildings are designed for disabled people from the outset. The new regulations will move us towards that goal."

A new report by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) calls on the Government to give councils and housing associations enough money to build more affordable housing for disabled people to rent.

The report, published in April, also recommends that a National Housing and Disability Forum should be set up to campaign for more accessible housing.

Part M Building Regulations 1992, £4.75, HMSO publications, 071-873 9090.

Housing - A Question of Influence?, £5, RADAR, 071 637 5400.

Court cash needed

The mother of a disabled child who needs £10,000 to take her local education authority to court has launched an appeal fund.

Lesley Gross is contesting the statement issued on her nine-year-old son Ryan by Devon county council.

It says Ryan, who has cerebral palsy, should receive "up to five hours" help a week.

Mrs Gross claims the statement is meaningless because it

is too vague. She fears the council will use it to reduce her son's help.

Mrs Gross, who launched her appeal after she was refused legal aid, said: "I hope to set a legal precedent and help thousands of other children like Ryan."

To help, please contact the Ryan Gross Legal Aid Appeal Fund, c/o IPSEA, 12 Marsh Road, Tillingham, Essex CM0 7SZ.

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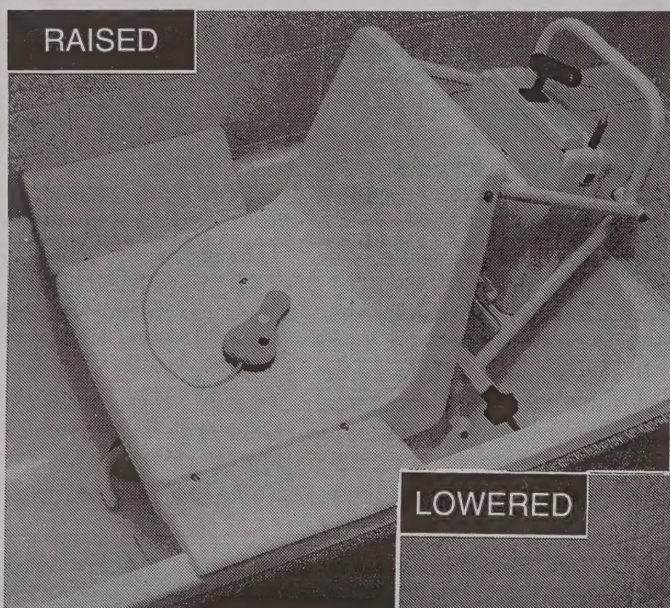
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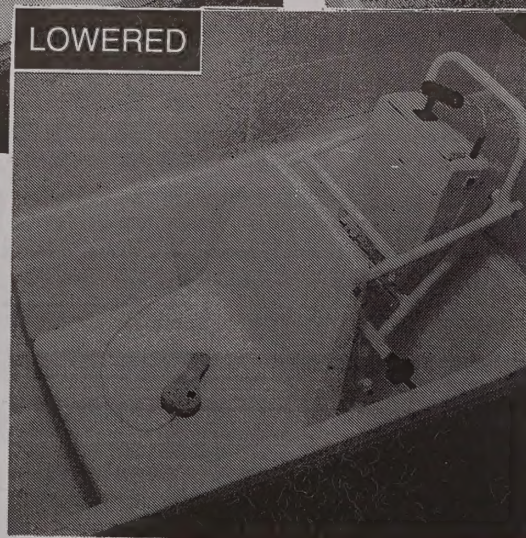
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DN6/92

Your life in their political hands

Junior ministerial appointments have now been made. Here are the teams that matter and some of their responsibilities:

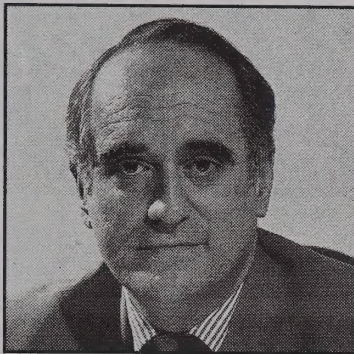
SOCIAL SECURITY

Secretary of State: Peter Lilley
Minister for Social Security and Disabled People: Nicholas Scott. All social security issues, with specific responsibility for disability issues. Social Fund.
Under Secretaries of State:
Lord Henley: War pensions and sickness benefit.
Ann Widdecombe: Pensions and widows' benefits.
Alistair Burt: "Family issues" including child benefits and Family Credit. Income Support, Housing Benefit and

Council Tax Benefit.

HEALTH

Secretary of State: Virginia Bottomley
Minister of State: Dr Brian Mawhinney. Community care. General medical, dental, phar-



Dr Brian Mawhinney

maceutical services, and NHS pay and personnel.

Under Secretaries of State:

Tim Yeo: Personal social services, services for elderly and disabled people, people who are mentally ill, and special hospitals. Director of The Spastics Society, 1980-83.

Tom Sackville: Section 64 grants to voluntary groups, Patient's Charter.

Baroness Cumberlege: Ethnic issues, Aids, and nutrition.

EDUCATION

Secretary of State: John Patten

Minister of State: Baroness Blatch. Children under five.

Under Secretaries of State:

Eric Forth: Special needs.

Nigel Forman: Students with disabilities and 16-19 issues.

EMPLOYMENT

Secretary of State: Gillian Shephard

Minister of State: Michael Forsyth. Training and educa-



Tim Yeo

tion and the Citizen's Charter.

Under Secretaries of State:

Patrick McLoughlin: Special needs and equal opportunities.
Lord Ullswater: Employment of disabled people. Tourism.

TRANSPORT

Secretary of State: John MacGregor

Minister of State: The Earl of Caithness. Airlines, airports, marine and shipping matters.

Minister for Public Transport: Roger Freeman. Transport of disabled people.

Under Secretaries of State:

Kenneth Carlisle: Roads and traffic.

Steven Norris: Transport in London, including red routes.

War of words continues

The vexed issue of disability terminology made it to the House of Lords in May.

In his first speech, Mencap chairman Lord Rix (Ind), acknowledged the views of those who found terms such as "mental handicap" offensive.

But Mencap would not be changing: "We are concerned to keep the acronym of Mencap and the issues of mental handicap on the agenda in terms and with images which are acceptable to those concerned, but which carry weight

with those very ready to ignore the issues."

The Earl of Snowdon (Ind) said: "In the May issue of *Disability Now*, a certain organisation is reported as saying that it objects to the words 'mental handicap'. It finds them insulting. I do not ..."

"Surely what matters is not these transient and irrelevant definitions but understanding and involvement with people in our community, whatever disability they may have. It is the word 'people' that is important."

CALLING ALL CAMPAIGNERS!

DN is essential reading for politicians interested in disability. If you've got a political point to get across, we want to know. Write to *DN*, address page 2, or phone the news desk on 071-636 5020.

DIGNITY '92

Exhibition of bathroom, kitchen and plumbing equipment for persons with a disability.

June 24 & 25 1992

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Government sends out the Bills

Her Majesty's Government set out its legislative intentions in May, with proposed bills affecting charities, disabled travellers, community care, and health.

Charities are among those who will benefit from the bill to set up a national lottery. Other causes include sport, arts, heritage, and the fund to celebrate the year 2000.

Prime Minister John Major said a lottery would provide funding on a "hitherto unprecedented scale".

"It will help support the network of voluntary bodies of

which this country can be so proud, and with which it is uniquely blessed," he said.

But charities are worried that only a small proportion of the money raised will go to them. There are also fears that a national lottery could lead to a drop in general revenue.

Legislation to let the private sector operate rail services is also afoot. Disabled travellers are waiting to see if accessibility will be any better once some lines go private, and whether concessionary fares will stay.

A White Paper setting tar-

gets for reducing serious illnesses, cancer and heart disease is on the agenda.

Lastly, the new Community Care (Residential Accommodation) Bill has been published to correct a "lacuna" (Whitehall-speak for a cock-up) in the NHS and Community Care Act 1990.

The 1990 Act inadvertently curtailed local authority powers to accommodate people in certain types of private homes and hostels. Now, with the help of the 1992 bill, local authorities will be able to use the full range.

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*"They wouldn't even
let him into some theatres
these days.*

He'd be a fire hazard."



Photograph used by kind permission of Michael Flanders' Estate.

Are the arts made accessible enough to people with disabilities? Are artists and performers with disabilities overlooked?

The Arts Council is now co-ordinating the National Arts and Media Strategy where issues like this are addressed. It's the most important examination of the arts and their future undertaken in this country.

But without your views and suggestions the Strategy could be incomplete. Phone for a copy of the document or write to us. We need your comments by July 31st at the latest.

NAMSU, The Arts Council of Great Britain, 14 Great Peter St., London SW1P 3NQ. Telephone: 071-973 6537. Fax: 071-973 6590.



IN BRIEF

Had a good holiday?

The 1992 Holiday Care Awards were launched last month.

Run by the Holiday Care Service, which gives advice to disabled holidaymakers and campaigns on their behalf, the awards are in their second year.

There are six categories: accommodation under and over 20 bedrooms; self-catering; attractions; most helpful individual member of staff, and the best journey experience.

Among last year's winners were the Westwood Country Hotel in Oxford (20 bedrooms and over) and Marwell Zoological Park in Winchester (attraction).

Entry forms, tel: (0293) 774535. Closing date 30 September.

Note this change

The new Bank of England £10 note is now out. Smaller than the £20 note and bigger than the £5, it has an orange diamond shape to make identification easier for visually impaired people.

Ticket to ride

Kent Skill, an employment training organisation linked to social services, is setting up a subsidised transport service for disabled people.

"Out and About" has received £90,000 for three years - two thirds of which came from social services, with the rest coming from local disabled people.

Three Chairman Escorts designed to carry one or two wheelchairs have been ordered from Gowrings Mobility with four more to follow.

Journeys will cost 25p a mile. It is hoped the service will start running next month in Dartford and Gravesham.

Kent Skill, tel: (0843) 603018.

To the top for charity

John Mitchell from Fetcham in Surrey is aiming to be the first blind mountaineer to climb Makaulu II and Everest in the Himalayas.

Mr Mitchell's "Climb for Sight" appeal hopes to raise at least £100,000 for the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society and the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

The expedition to Makalu II will be going this autumn, with Everest next autumn.

To donate, please contact Climb for Sight, PO Box 155, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9YF. Cheques should be made payable to "Climb for Sight".



Judy Taylor, lecturer in the special needs section of Swansea College has taken delivery of the Floronde she won in the DN gardening competition (DN, March). With Mrs Taylor (third from left), who is donating the Floronde to the students, are Emma Pavett, principal Cyril Lewis, James West, Brian John and Amanda Hayward.

Design demand

Car manufacturers should improve the design of vehicles to help disabled drivers, says a new report by the Automobile Association (AA).

Mobility for All cites badly shaped seats, awkward positioning of seatbelts and lack of leg-room among the faults of today's cars.

The AA also wants improvements to public transport, car parking facilities and self-service petrol stations.

AA deputy director general Kenneth Faircloth said "thoughtless behaviour and bad planning by many able-bodied people" was to blame.

Free, tel: (0256) 493017.

Stephen Hunt: a man who went out and did

Keith Armstrong writes:

Stephen Hunt died peacefully on May Day, after returning from a journey in Mexico and Belize. He was 51.

I first met him in the early '80s when we were both elected to the management board of Camden Dial-a-Ride. He became the chairperson in 1989. His support of the Federation of London Dial-a-Rides included writing a script and producing a humorous short film explaining its importance.

Stephen was a member of

the Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT) and went on many demonstrations. He also belonged to the Dangerous Sports Club.

He is best known as a travel writer, for *The Guardian*, *Independent*, *Telegraph* and *Disability Now*. He told us what it feels like to travel in a wheelchair to Kenya, Egypt, Indonesia and many more places. He also wrote for the travel guide *Nothing Ventured (Disabled People Travel the World)*.

Born in 1940, in Taunton, Somerset, one of five children, Stephen was educated at Wellington School. At first he concentrated on writing, direct-

ing and producing plays. When he was 19, his first play, *Full Circle*, was performed in Bridgewater and toured the Somerset area. He was a qualified librarian.

Stephen had muscular dystrophy. It was diagnosed when he was six, but he did not become a full-time wheelchair user until the early '80s.

I have always known him to be humorous, gentle and in control, despite the many problems that disability creates.

Mary Wilkinson adds:

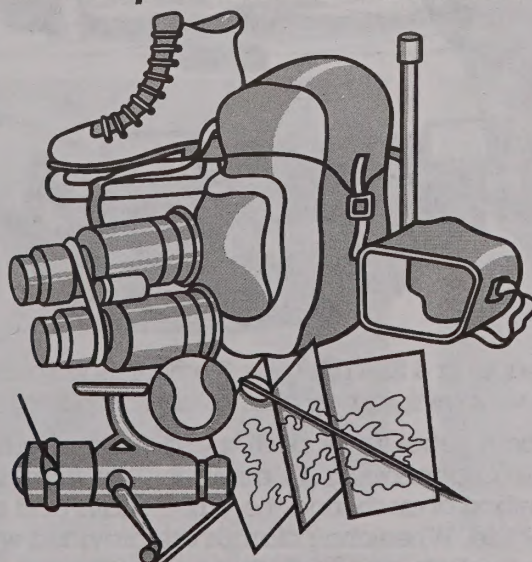
I first met Stephen in 1988 when we listened to Deng Pufang, disabled son of the

Chinese leader, proclaiming China's first Five Year Programme for disabled people, hailed as a "new revolution". Stephen, with characteristic realism, doubted that much would change.

He soon became a freelance contributor to *DN*, writing lively, earthy pieces about his trips. Later he moved into theatre, music and book reviewing too. Stephen was a perfectionist. He would often telephone after a piece had been sent in to give us a better word or a more appropriate phrase.

We shall miss his enthusiasm, his knowledge and his courage to go out and do.

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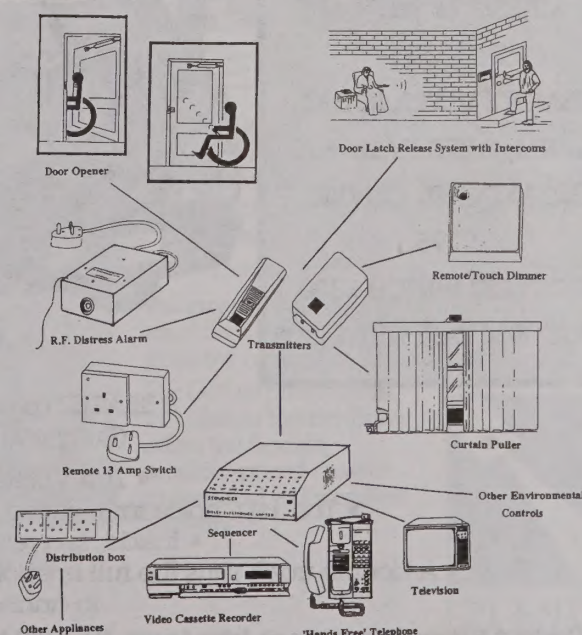
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Surgery gets safer

People with haemophilia could have safer surgery in future following the success of an operation on a 40-year-old Essex man.

Haemophilia is an inherited condition which only affects males and causes recurrent bleeding. It is caused by a deficiency in the blood-clotting protein, Factor VIII.

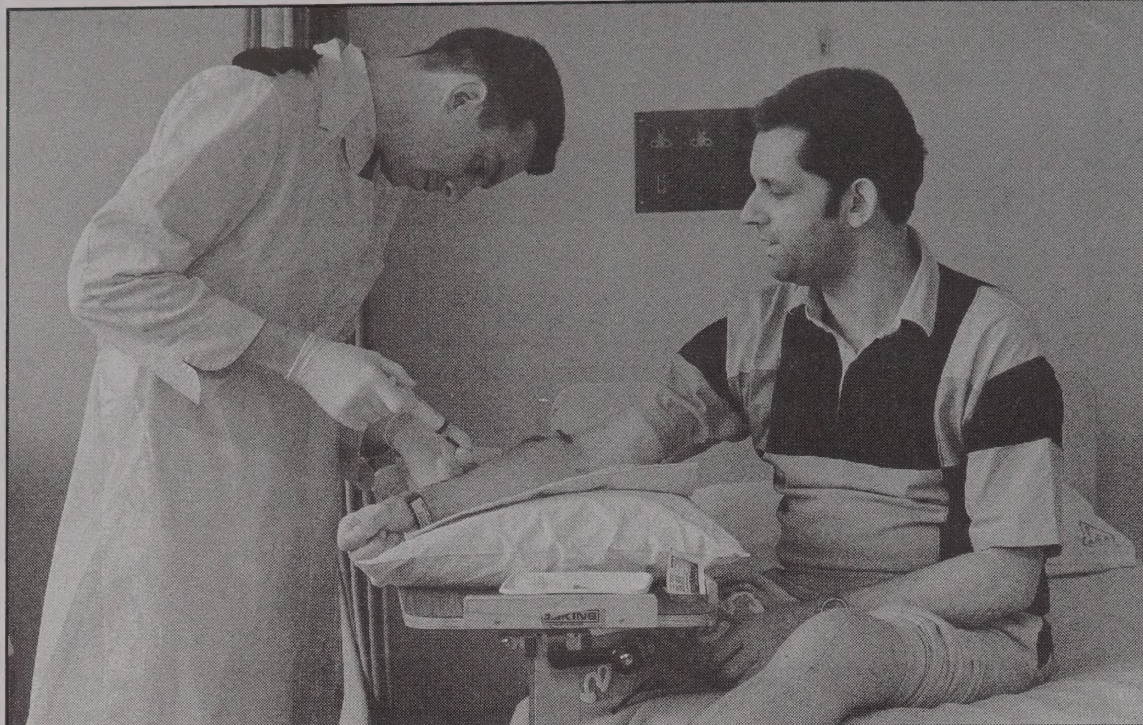
Although Keith Colthorpe injects himself with synthetic Factor VIII every other day, this is the first time it has been used during an operation.

Mr Colthorpe was given a new knee joint in his left leg at London's Royal Free Hospital in April.

He was given infusions of Factor VIII before and throughout the operation to raise the level in his blood to that of a person without the condition.

The synthetic protein was produced from hamster cells. The cells were infected with a virus that contained the gene which makes Factor VIII.

Dr Christine Lee, director of the hospital's haemophilia centre, said: "This is an important breakthrough that offers safer treatment for all haemophiliacs. As this synthetically produced protein is not derived from human blood there is no chance



Keith Colthorpe: first man to have an operation with synthetic Factor VIII.

JOHN COGILL

of it being infected by AIDS or hepatitis."

Play while you work

Computer games may soon be used as an aid to physiotherapy programmes.

By adapting the Penny and Giles goniometer, which measures the mobility of joints, engineering students at the Polytechnic of Wales have developed a device that enables

patients to operate a computer while exercising.

"Gamesys" is stuck to the wrist, elbow or knee. Any movements are instantly copied by the mouse or cursor on the computer screen, making it possible for people to play games while exercising.

Project leader Andrew Burton said: "We believe Gamesys will be of great use to physiotherapists as it will provide people with a greater motivation and incentive to do their rehabilitation programmes. Even the dullest and most routine of exercises becomes inter-

esting if you're playing a game at the same time."

A spokeswoman for the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists said: "We welcome any device that encourages people to become more interested in their physiotherapy programme."

Gamesys, produced by Penny and Giles Biometrics Ltd, will be on sale from this month at around £1,000 and is compatible with most standard computers.

Penny and Giles, tel: (0495) 228000.

Hear all about it

European engineers are developing a new service which will make tv more enjoyable for visually impaired people.

"Audio Description" (AD), lets people hear a special commentary channel which describes what is happening on screen during silent moments in the programme.

The technique is being developed by AUDETEL, a consortium that includes the Independent Television Commission (ITC), Manchester University, the Italian tv manufacturers Seleco and the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). AUDETEL is funded by the European Commission.

Jim Slater of the ITC said: "By this autumn it should be possible to demonstrate a working AD system, transmitting the commentary over the air to a handful of people with prototype decoders."

RNIB arts officer Marcus Weisen said: "This service will greatly increase the enjoyment of thousands of visually impaired people who watch tv as eagerly as the rest of us, but it will be another five years before the service is available in Britain.

"We aim to provide a high quality, cheap system and that will take time."



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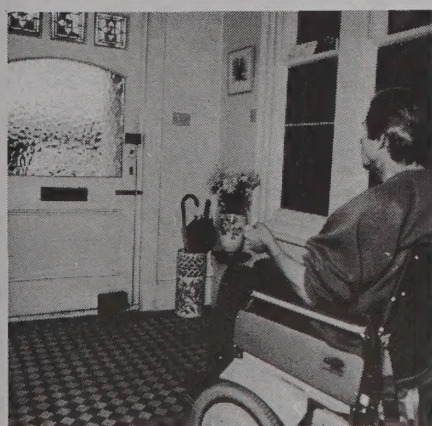
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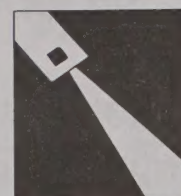
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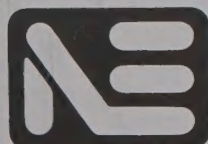
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DN6/92

INDEPENDENCE 92

International Congress and
Exposition on Disability

AUTONOMIE 92

Congrès international et exposition
concernant les personnes handicapées

Mary Wilkinson reports

A landmark in the history of the world disability movement was reached in April when 3000 disabled people from 90 countries met in Vancouver for the largest congress of its kind.

At Independence '92 they celebrated their achievements in the United Nations (UN) Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), learned about each other's problems, ran workshops, and renewed their call for liberation.

Highlight of a Naidex-type exhibition was Independence Street, with everything - a home, school, bank, - "barrier-free".

The three-day congress began with members of the Vancouver Native Elder Society carrying smoking herbs to the four corners of the hall and praying for unity and harmony.

Harmony did not always reign among delegates of different disabilities, but everyone agreed that disabled people must assert themselves if they are to win social equality and economic independence.

As Tanis Doe, from the Canadian umbrella group Coalition of Provincial Organisations of the Handicapped, said: "We have all come together with a common vision and that vision is liberation."

'Today we must turn the

When one person is oppressed or hurt we are all oppressed and hurt. We can no longer tolerate oppression."

Disabled people are the poorest in the world and the first to be affected by wars or natural catastrophes, said Rachel Hurst, British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) representative to Disabled People's Inter-

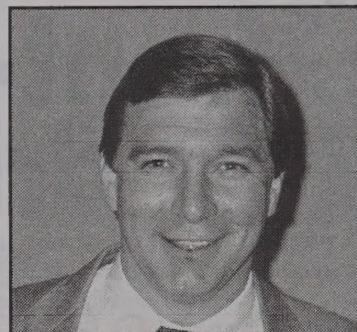
disabled people, rights for people with mental handicaps won by the self-advocacy movement People First, and the growth of DPI, which now represents 100 organisations run by people with different disabilities.

She paid tribute to the "vision" of the chairperson of Independence '92, wheelchair adventurer Rick Hansen.

Raising key issues for the

the political direction that will make people who control the world and its resources listen and consult us."

Arguably, the Canadian Government had already got the message. National and international committees of disabled people helped plan Independence '92. The Government gave £1.2m to the congress and exhibition and another £1.3m



Chairperson Rick Hansen

cal disability and gives disabled people equal protection and benefit of the law.

Secretary of State, Robert de Cotret, who is responsible for "the status of disabled persons" (and women and indians), explained how the Canadian National Strategy for integrating disabled people unites government departments and agencies in a five-year, £79m, plan for "equal access, economic integration and effective participation".

He said a bill, drawn up with disability groups, would give MPs their first chance in May to amend existing legislation in favour of disabled people.

British Columbia's Pavilion Corporation organised the congress at the Trade and Convention Centre in Vancouver, a modern city with wheelchair-accessible public transport.

Delegates were given a week's free travel on SeaBus which crosses the harbour, Skytrain, and on the buses. Accessible taxis and handy-DART (lift-equipped passenger vans) were also free.



Where dreams came true: Canada Place, scene of Independence '92.

MARY WILKINSON

national (DPI). Some governments have good intentions, but everywhere disabled people are still struggling.

She pointed to achievements, such as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, which outlaws discrimination against

conference, she challenged the UN to turn its World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (promoted in the Decade) into real action; governments to pass laws that uphold human rights and ensure participation; the media to portray disabled people as part of society; professionals to enter into equal partnership in providing services ("That'll be a difficult one"); and friends and neighbours to share in changing awareness into action.

"I say to you the time for words and lip service is over. Today we must turn words into action."

Another key speaker was Joshua Malinga from Zimbabwe, chairperson of DPI, who warned that the struggle against oppression would be long and "violation of human rights in one country should be met by violent force."

Disabled people, he said, must develop "political force". "We need to leave here with

to enable delegates from 60 countries to attend.

"A major breakthrough," said Stephen Bradshaw, director of the Spinal Injuries Asso-



Pick-up time: one of Vancouver's 31 accessible taxis.

ciation. "I think disabled people are much indebted to the Canadian Government. It is noticeable how few other governments have come forward." (The UK Government gave £3,000 to BCODP on top of an annual £4,000 international grant to meet various costs.)

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was honorary chairperson. He did not attend, but sent a video reaffirming his government's pledge to improve lifestyles and opportunities for disabled people.

He said Canada is the only country with a constitution which prohibits discrimination on grounds of mental or physi-



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words into action'

hard; one driver reported doing a 10-hour shift. They were given training on behaviour and acceptable language.

The interpretation services were less successful and produced some angry scenes.

Blind people, impatient at the delay in printing the congress programme in braille, charged the organisers with "denial of access and full equality" and forced Rick Hansen to make a public apology.

Deaf people could only be sure of interpreters and "instant captioning" - speeches relayed on screens in French and English with a picture of the speaker and a signer - at major sessions. There was no sign interpretation of Brian Mulroney's video.

At two press conferences, deaf representatives went as far as saying that DPI did not speak for them, they did not feel part of Independence '92 and they did not regard themselves as disabled.

By the end of the congress Dr Yarker Andersson, president of the World Federation of the Deaf, was saying that equality could only be achieved if everyone respected each other's differences and each group took part in planning. "I am not certain at all that equality has been achieved here. But this is a first attempt."

Hard-of-hearing people and People First were also dissatisfied. People who had had mental illness, the "psychiatric survivors", said they had been ignored.

Rick Hansen accepted the criticisms: "But if they were as quick to understand as they were to criticise, perhaps they would understand the enormous task it is to try to put on an event of this kind. It has never been done before."

Some topics kept reappearing, such as the failure to get

positive media coverage.

Led by the UK, delegates lobbied the congress media centre. At a press conference, Richard Wood, BCODP director ("director of the British



Key speaker Rachel Hurst

Movement"), suggested that a resolution condemning the Canadian press should be signed by each country. But it was not followed up.

He was more successful at getting action on human rights.

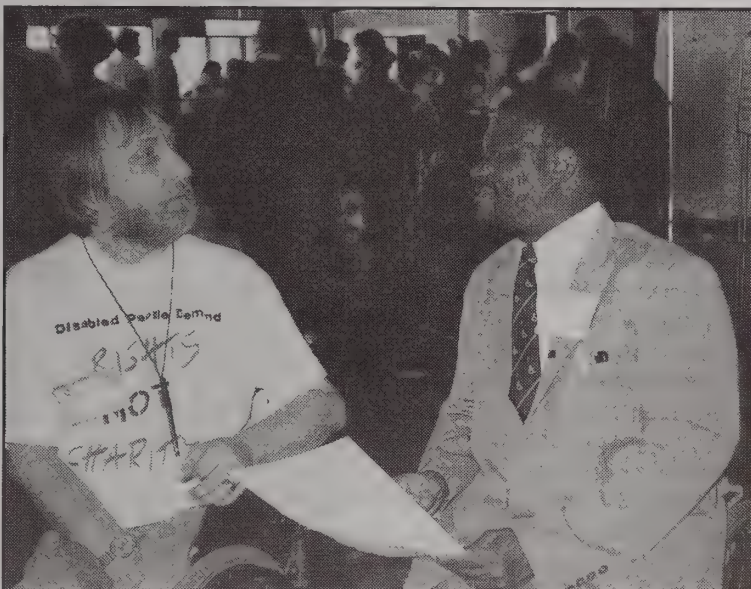
Backed by American and

(UK) commented: "An interesting shift. Able-bodied people have been seen as the oppressor. Now they are being accepted as co-workers."

Education, employment and technology were other main topics in a gruelling programme of 95 workshops and major sessions, whose times often overlapped. UK contributors included Rachel Hurst, Jane Campbell, Kath Gillespie-Sells and David Towell.

Many people wanted fewer workshops, shorter presentations and less "talking at". Disability awareness trainer Ann Macfarlane said: "I would like to see one example of good practice coming out of each workshop that could go forward for a paper. Even a small thing could help."

It was not all work, though. Actors, musicians and dancers from many countries performed



A human rights petition? Richard Wood puts the idea to DPI chairperson Joshua Malinga from Zimbabwe. MARY WILKINSON

Australian delegates, he secured over 800 signatures to a petition asking DPI's World Council (meeting a few days later) to set up an international network, "a sort of Amnesty International organisation for grassroots disabled people" to protest against infringements.

The plan was approved and appeared in DPI's Vancouver Declaration, along with other demands.* So far, there is no money to set it up.

Self-help, another important theme, produced some unexpected views.

Russell Hunt, DPI Australia, thought self-help groups could become exclusive, "crippling" their chances of changing society. "We should be opening up our movement to as many different people as possible and giving them numerous and varied ways to be involved."

Tanis Doe talked of partnership between disabled and non-disabled people and, accepting everyone needs assistance, used the word "interdependence" as well as "independent living".

Equality trainer Phil Friend,

day and night, and there were arts and sports exhibitions too. On gala night, Britain's Johnny Crescendo and Ian Stanton raised the roof with the song *Choices and Rights*.

No formal resolutions were passed. Deng Pufang, disabled son of China's leader Deng Xiaoping, announced an Asia-Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002).

UN secretary general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali sent a message committing the UN to equal opportunities for disabled people and to "using our resources, our influence and our experience to ensure that disabled people everywhere can develop their potential to the fullest and participate fully in the society in which they live."

Henry Enns, DPI Canada, promised that the world's 500 million disabled people would hold the UN to its pledge.

To mark the end of the Decade, the UN General Assembly will hold four meetings in October. Duncan Watson, president of the World Blind Union, was glad the UN was encouraging governments to appoint disabled people to their delegations: "It is crucial



Why aren't we getting national media coverage, asks Lucille Lusk (UK) when angry delegates lobbied the media centre.

that disabled people and their organisations are there to speak on our behalf."

Announcing an Independence '94, Rick Hansen said such initiatives "must bring the disabled community into the corridors of power. It must bring partnership with government, business, labour, the media and everyone else that holds the key to our freedom. That is the dream."

Phil Friend and Spastics Society Fast-Track management trainee Abdul Mansour thought an opportunity had been missed to include hard-

headed disabled businessmen and employers, whose expertise might turn some of the dreams of economic independence into reality. "If you keep relying on government handouts or charity, the big decisions will always be made by others", said Abdul Mansour.

BCODP chairperson John Evans thought the congress had given people with different experiences the chance to share their problems and find solutions. "You get fired up. Hopefully the British group will do that and vitalise the British disability movement."

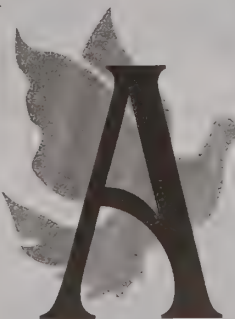


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Steelers hopes smashed

Sheffield Steelers came a disappointing fourth in the European Wheelchair Basketball Cup at the Pond Forge Centre in Sheffield last month.

The Steelers got off to a flying start by beating St Lucia of Italy (61-48) and the Austrian team RSV Salzburg (71-57) in

the early stages.

But defeat at the hands of the French team AS Berck (64-65) and BC Verkerk (46-70) cost them a place in the final. They then lost to Bruges in a play-off for third place.

BC Verkerk went on to win the cup, beating AS Berck (63-

38) in a one-sided final.

"It was a little disappointing to only come fourth after being in such good form throughout the season," said the Steelers' captain Colin Price. But we will be back next year and going for our first European cup."

Same again for tennis champ

Chris Illingworth retained his singles title at the 1992 National Wheelchair Tennis Championships.

Last month's event at the Delta Tennis Centre in Swindon was contested by 36 of Britain's best players.

Illingworth, from London, beat Britain's current number one Jayant Mistry 7-5, 6-3 in a repeat of last year's final. It was Illingworth's fourth national

title in five years.

"It was a close, hard-fought match," he said. "But after taking the first set I was able to get on top."

Mistry got his revenge when he teamed up with Simon Hatt to beat Illingworth and Bob Dockerill in the doubles final.

Will Behenna made an impressive debut in the intermediate division, winning both the singles and doubles titles,

while John Lambert, from Cannock, won the novice event.

The junior title was won by 15-year-old Tony Charlam-bides, from Maidenhead, who beat Stephen Ellis, 14, from London, 6-3, 6-0.

The country's top players will be in action again at the British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships at The Graves Tennis Centre, Sheffield, on 27 July.

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Bowled over

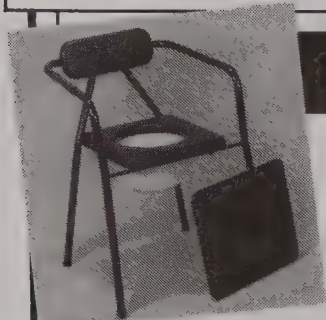
The national finals of the Short Mat Bowls Championships were held in Birmingham last month. The event, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled, attracted 86 competitors.

The group six event for visually impaired players was won by Coventry's Arthur Hestilow. The group one title for severely disabled competitors was taken by Paul Mace, from Redditch, his fourth consecutive national title. West Midlands took the team trophy. Greater London came second.



The Steelers take on Salzburg and seize an early victory.
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Champion tumbles

World number one, Jane Blackburn, suffered a shock defeat in the final of the English Open Disabled Table Tennis Championships at Aylesbury last month.

Blackburn took the first set in the tetraplegic final against Christine Droux of Switzerland. But Droux fought back tenaciously to win the next two sets 21-11, 21-12. It was the Swiss player's first win in a major international competition.

The British team gained some consolation when Tony Edge, from Southport, beat Bjorn Simonsen of Norway in the final of the men's tetraplegic division.

Frenchman Guy Tissarat won the men's paraplegic title with the women's trophy going to Gabi Kirichmair of Austria.

Sport is written by
Tim Russell,
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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

ASBAH regrets

Mrs Jennifer Brown regrets that we in ASBAH had to cut our counselling service (*DN* letters, May).

It is indeed a matter of very great regret that a high quality, specialised service had to be closed for financial reasons. We looked long and hard at all the options, after a year of severe recession had hit us, in common with other charities. In the circumstances, we have no doubt that our decision was the correct one.

The problem is that all our services are important, and they exist because of the inadequacy of statutory sector provision. The one option closed to us was to do nothing, which would have added ASBAH's name to the long list of insolvent organisations, which have been a tragic feature of the past year.

ASBAH continues to provide specialised services in the field of mobility, continence management, independence training, special needs education and research into spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

We also have an extensive network of professional fieldworkers in most parts of the country, providing information and support to thousands of clients.

We receive no financial support from Government and virtually none from local authorities.

The question for us all to

address is why, when professional counselling is of such vital importance, so little is done by district health authorities and social services departments - leaving vital services to be financed by voluntary contributions.
Andrew Russell
Executive director
Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus
Peterborough

Two-tier system? Yes ...

Of course there is a two-tier health service ("The secret of success in disability Britain", *DN* May). My certainty comes from experience, not opinion.

Up until quite recently I was an affluent "Middle East oil man" and I bought my health care wherever I happened to be. Money was no obstacle and the attention was always first class.

When I became disabled and broke I had to rely on the NHS. The treatment has been adequate, but barely so, vastly different from paying for it.

The NHS also covers wheelchairs, spectacles, hearing aids. Sadly, I have experienced all of these and none of them can compare with the private equivalents. The truth is that the world today considers money first and people second.
James Straughan
Hartlepool, Cleveland

... Yes ...

If you have money, life is much easier. I have been

disabled for years. I am not able to use public transport and a taxi is too expensive. If I want even a weekend away I need to pay for someone to come with me.

Mr and Mrs Cleavelly got off lightly with £6 a week for home helps. About two months ago I fell and had my right arm in plaster. The home help cost me £10.40 a week.

Because my writing is affected, I thought I would get a second-hand typewriter, but they were all too expensive.

S Mark
Peterborough

...and appropos

I work in a small disabled living centre and am also chair of the Disabled Living Centres' Council (DLCC).

For some time, I and many of my colleagues have felt growing concern about the widening gap between the current statutory availability of equipment and the needs and expectations of disabled people and their carers.

The DLC in which I work has an exhibition of 600 items or so, of which only about a quarter are readily available from the health authority or social services department. An even smaller percentage can be bought easily locally.

I meet people every day for whom information and advice about a useful and appropriate aid can serve to frustrate and disempower, simply because they cannot afford to wait or to buy it themselves.

Approaching charities for help is, understandably, totally unacceptable for many people and would not be a realistic option for most anyway.

Some contributory factors

were highlighted for me last year at two "Equipment Maze" events run by the DLCC.
1. Statutory provision of equipment is increasingly being "targetted" because of shrinking resources. This effectively excludes a large number of people assessed as not having a "severe enough" disability to qualify for the right to equipment and whose small savings take them outside income support.
2. What is urgent and essential to someone living at home and struggling with the everyday activities of life somehow seems to have less priority to hard-pressed staff trying to make difficult decisions about who should get what from a constantly shrinking budget.
3. Information is vital and it should be easily accessible, up-to-date and accurate. Not only is there often a lack of information about what is available and where to get it; there is quite often a severe lack of choice because disabled people do not have the money to exercise choice.

The last point holds the key. Disability information has at last been recognised as a field ripe for development and disabled people are becoming involved. Disabled living centres provide free demonstration of equipment and impartial information advice. So there is a place to go, if you have the transport. What is needed now is a means of empowering disabled people to make choices beyond "take it or leave it". Ideas last year included a daily living equipment allowance, or a voucher system, to replace the current maze of statutory provision, where what you get

is often more related to where you live than what you need.

I would be interested to know what other readers think.
Maggie Winchcombe,
Chair, DLCC
286 Camden Road
London N7 0BJ

Thank you to the many readers who have written letters about the two-tier system. We cannot print everyone's, but will try to include more next month - Editor

British Rail's discount offer

We, too, were dismayed to find when renewing a disabled person's railcard that the discount for day tickets will be cut from 50 per cent to 34 per cent next year, bringing them into line with other railcards (*DN*, May).

Whilst 50 per cent may seem a large discount, one has to bear in mind that many disabled people need or prefer to be accompanied by someone of their choice to carry their luggage and help them *en route* or on/off trains. So the actual cost of a day journey for them will be 32 per cent above the cost of a journey for one adult paying full fare.

Although BR's arrangements for helping disabled people to join, change and leave trains have undoubtedly improved, they need 48 hours notice of a journey. Thus it is not possible to make a last-minute decision to travel - most likely on a day trip - in which case many will need to take their own escort.

Even under their present more generous discounts, BR receives the equivalent of a full adult fare from a disabled person and helper.

Michael Farr
Andover, Hampshire



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sic



Card sharks

Thank you *DN* reader Anna McKenzie from Middlesex for sending us the little gem (above) from Dillons Bookshop. The message reads: "I'm sorry this birthday card is late! I gave it to my Aunt Maude and it took her forever to get to the post office!" When Ms McKenzie complained, she was told: "Madam, we wouldn't stock it if it didn't sell."

So when will they start selling soft porn and guns?

The new Euro Disney: wonder or washout?

Keith Armstrong found some hard facts along the road to fantasy

Mickey Mouse, the Magic Kingdom, Thunder Mountain, Main Street USA, all transplanted to a £2.5 billion theme park near Paris. What child could resist such a fantasy world on the doorstep, so to speak?

The first group of disabled children from the UK went out by coach in April with Assistance Travel Service (ATS), "the authorised travel advisor to a number of charitable institutions".

Some of the children had a terminal illness and their big wish was to meet Mickey.

Unfortunately, we didn't arrive until 9pm (French time) because we got lost. No one else could speak French, so my helper was asked to help out.

The hotel restaurant closed at 10pm, so we just made it.

While the hotel itself has a three-star rating, and earns it, the restaurant is two-star, charging three-star prices. Some of our party found this unexpected expense a problem.

Upstairs, my bedroom had a wide door, a rather low bed making it difficult for me to be helped up, and adequate bathroom facilities.

an exciting ride (my favourite); Discovery; Fantasy, with Sleeping Beauty's castle, and Frontierland. You reach at once for a camera; they can be hired if you've forgotten yours.

Euro Disney is clearly French. Apart from public relations people, the only staff we found speaking English were two South Africans who ran a shop in Frontierland.

Food is mainly American-style and expensive: oranges and apples were 50p each. Queues were long - it took 45 minutes to get to the front of the lunch queue - and there was one for toilets too. This on a rainy day, mid-week.

The wait for a ride on the Ghost Train was 40 minutes. Efforts to give disabled children preferential treatment by separating them from their families was not a happy idea.

With 27 attractions on a 5,000 acre site, there were long distances to travel. Manual wheelchair and pram hire services were located near the entrance, but unless you notice the small print in the *Guest Guide*, you might miss them.

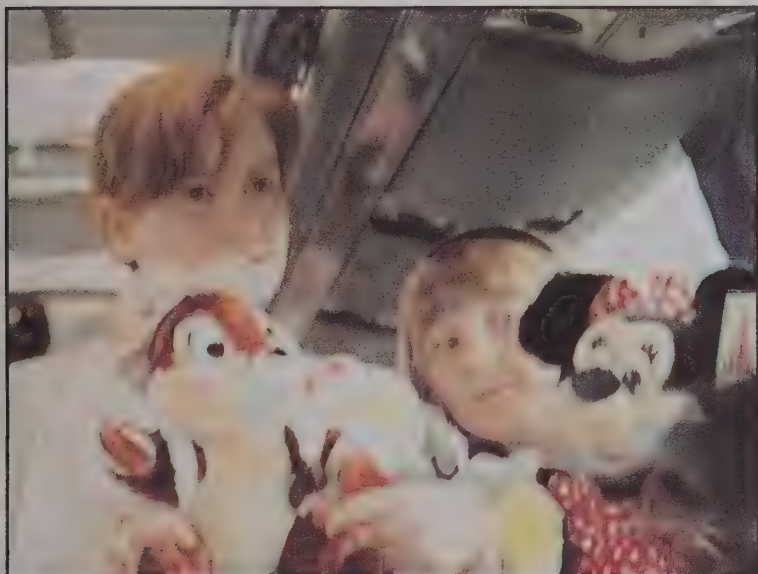
You need to ask for the useful *Guide to Special Services* for people with disabilities.

I was impressed that almost all the attractions were accessible to wheelchair users. Seven were not recommended for guide dogs.

Staff, called "actors", were not allowed to help people with disabilities "for insurance reasons". One helped me on condition that I did not name him. So if you need extra assistance, take a helper.

Returning by coach to the hotel in the evening, the water dispenser flooded the luggage compartment, so it was wet wheelchair cushions for everyone. The hotel restaurant was closed. Mr Reeve said he was arranging a special meal for the children.

The last morning it was my



Children with their trophies on the bus home. KEITH ARMSTRONG

My "reason" for joining them was to check out the facilities for disabled visitors.

The trip lasted three days, with one day at Euro Disney. The cost, including bed and breakfast at a wheelchair-accessible hotel, but not other meals, was £120 each.

Accompanied by a French helper, I arrived at the London collection point at 7am. Disappointment. The 1986 High Line luxury coach with every mod con, including air conditioning, toilet, video screens and a fridge, had been replaced with a single deck Duplex coach with a tail lift and cold water dispenser.

Tony Reeve of ATS told us the original coach had been vandalised and this was all he could get at short notice.

By the time we were on board P&O's "Pride of Dover", there were 42 of us, parents and children, with 10 wheelchair users.

The boat was accessible (though I didn't see the toilets); staff were friendly and helpful, and the food not too expensive. People on special diets should bring their own.

From Calais, the journey was through beautiful countryside to the Hotel IDF at Palaiseau, near Paris, 24 miles from Euro Disney.



Sleeping Beauty's castle: rained on, but not out. C BLANCHARD

turn to let the party down, by being late for departure due to over-enthusiastic checking of facilities in my room.

Views about the tour were mixed. Disney did not fail to bewitch, although not seeing Mickey hurt. Some people felt the ATS service was good, while others were shocked at its shortcomings.

If you plan a package tour, it would be worth making sure your tour operator belongs to the Association of British Travel Agents or the Association of Independent

Tour Operators so that, if things go wrong, you can claim independent arbitration.

New-style E111 forms from the Post Office will cover you for emergency medical treatment in EC countries. But I suggest you take out medical insurance too.

Assistance Travel Service Ltd, tel: 081-593 9909.

Hotel IDF, 82 rue Gutenberg, 91120 Palaiseau, Essonne 91.

John Grooms Association plans a Euro Disney package, using air travel. Tel: 081-802 7272.

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Caring for the Carers

by Christine Ledger
(Kingsway Publications, £6.99)

Caring for Carers

by Julia Burton-Jones
(Scripture Union, 130 City Road, London ECIV, £4.95)

Christine Ledger's *Caring for the Carers* says there are six million people in Great Britain who have caring responsibilities and it is not uncommon for them to work up to 50 hours a week for a pittance. With that in mind, all churchgoers are called to be "Jesus to one another".

This is a practical guide for pastoral workers and visitors and gives a vivid insight into the stresses that carers experience. In response, the church's role should not be to just provide a cake or a bunch of flowers, but sometimes place itself in the midst of a person's pain, letting them

upbeat, Christian response to caring, the book as a whole is simplistically written and depressing.

Caring for Carers, by Julia Burton-Jones, covers much of the same ground but in greater depth, with many compelling interviews with carers.

The book is written from a professional counselling standpoint and would be a great asset in understanding disabilities such as Alzheimers disease and clinical depression. It deals clearly with feelings of guilt and the frequent desire to

strike out at loved ones, simply because of frustration.

Unlike the first author, Julia Burton-Jones tells carers to think about the disabled person's feelings when talking of options such as respite care: "We need to find ways of helping carers which do not put their disabled relatives forever on the receiving end of kindness. We need to discover life-giving ways of allowing disabled people to know and to feel that they are giving to the society around them."

Christine Ledger's book

made disabled people seem irritating incumbrances. Julia Burton-Jones' book has a wonderful account of the love that two people, Keith and Janet, share which shows how caring can be a positive experience.

If I had to choose, it would be *Caring for Carers*, not least for its wonderful list of Christian organisations in the appendix and its frank response to the way the church should be actively involved in caring for the carers.

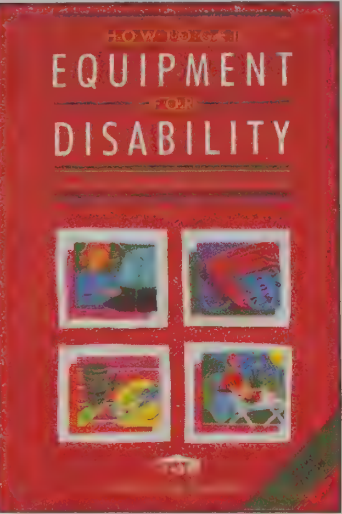
Lin Berwick

EVERYONE BELONGS



Mainstream Education for Children with Severe Learning Difficulties

Kenn Jupp



The second edition (first one 1990) of *How to Get Equipment for Disability*, by Michael Mandelstam, is out. Jessica Kingsley, 118 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, £18.95.

express their grief and anger.

Ms Ledger says the church regularly falls down on its duty to provide support for carers to attend worship, and to keep up regular visits to the home when the carer is too exhausted to be responsive when they visit.

In the section "Carers Speak for Themselves", Eileen Carey, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, speaks movingly about caring for her mother, who had dementia and was incontinent in later life.

Although many of the reports display a positive,

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) has a new Talking Book Service in Hindi for Asian people who are blind or partially sighted. Titles include bestsellers by Perm Chand and classics such as the Mahabharat. Contact RNIB Talking Books Service, tel: 081- 903 6666.



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can buy,' said What Car? (Nov. '91) And according to Auto Express (Jan. 28 '92), 'the refined ZXReflex, backed by Citroën's low service and repair bills, is our overall best-value buy.'

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1987 Ken Jupp became teacher of the newly formederdale special school in ckport. Within weeks he was ing for the school to be closed i the pupils transferred to al mainstream schools.

s part of his case, he carried a pilot study in which five dren, all with severe learning ficulties, were given the ince to go to their local instream school.

Read how they got on in *Everyone Belongs: Mainstream Education for Children with Severe Learning Difficulties*, Souvenir Press, £9.99.

Alone Together: Voices of Single Mothers

edited by Jenny Morris
(The Women's Press, £6.99)

Jenny Morris is a feminist and the author of several books concerning women and disabilities including *Able Lives: Women's Experience of Paralysis*, and *Pride Against Prejudice: Transforming Attitudes to Disability*.

She is also a disabled parent, and her book is about the

experiences of 17 single mothers. Two of the women are disabled.

Between them, they cover just about every emotion you could experience as a single mum, such as making vital decisions alone, coping with prejudice, financial dilemmas, loneliness, and being alone when children grow up and go their own way.

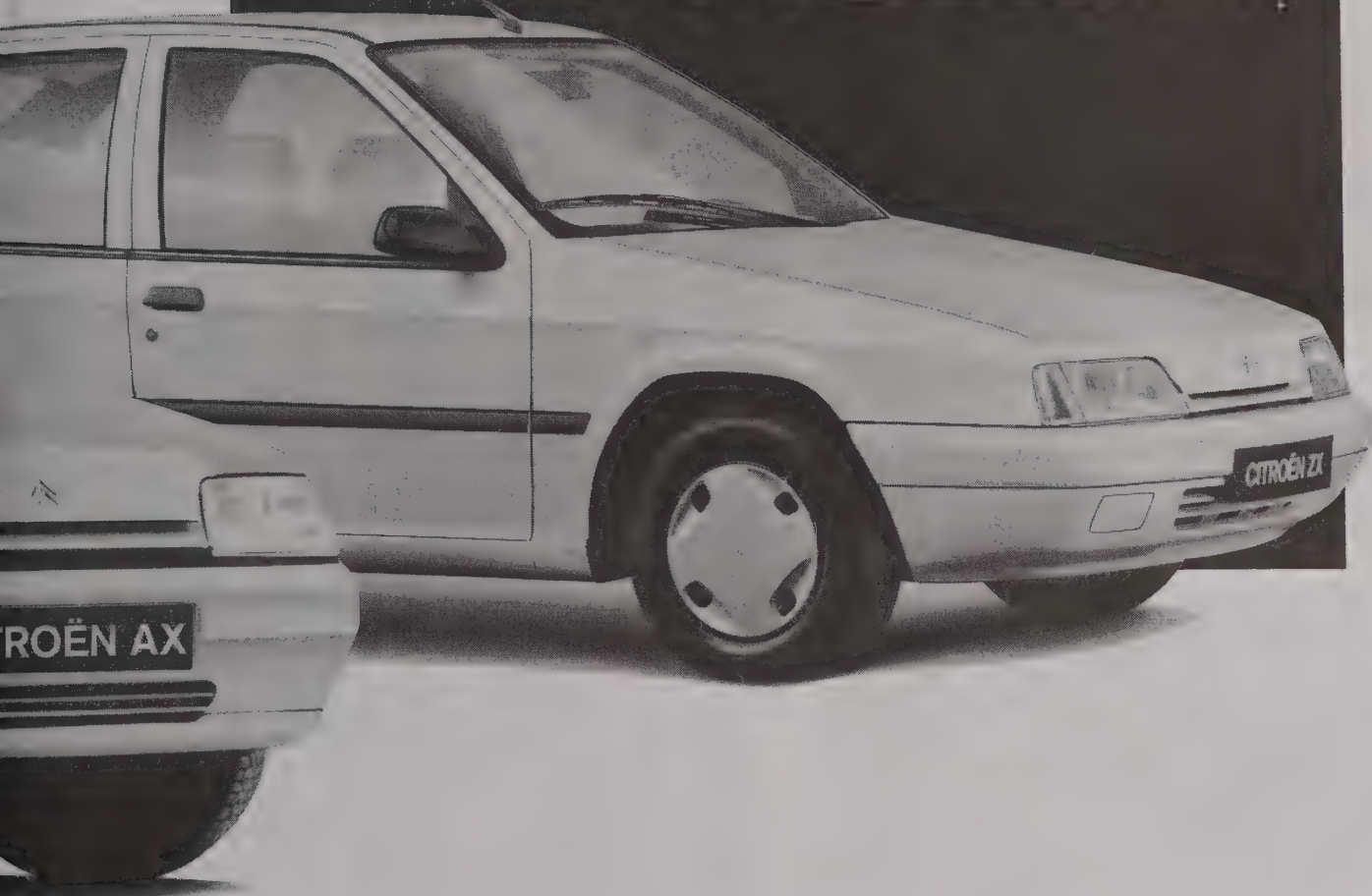
But they also celebrate the intense closeness and love a lone parent experiences, and the sheer joy and laughter that children bring.

As a single mother, I could identify with several of these emotions. It was a relief to read that there were others in my situation. Being alone can make you feel very isolated and even depressed, especially at first.

Alone Together is such an easy, relaxing read that I found it hard to put it down. Jenny Morris has gone to great lengths to find varied anecdotes, all extremely down-to-earth and sincere.

Any unattached mum would benefit from reading *Alone*

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DID YOU WIN THE FISHING COMPETITION?

Thanks to everyone who entered the DN/Clae-O-Mat competition to win a salmon-fishing holiday in Scotland (DN, April).

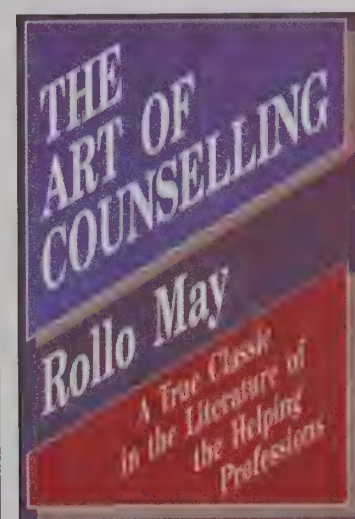
The first prize goes to Ann Brown, Ivy Cottage, Kingswood, near Kingston, Herefordshire HR5 3JH. Mrs Brown wins three day's fly-fishing, accommodation for four nights, and £100 towards travel costs. Her winning tie-breaker was "My idea of a perfect day's fishing is to see fish showing and the wildlife in beautiful surroundings."

Craig McCartney, 45 Arbrough Grove, Chantinghall, Hamilton, Lanarkshire ML3 8PF, wins the second prize of two days fishing, three nights' accommodation, with £50 towards travel costs.

Pictures in DN August. Clae-O-Mat are now thinking of making the competition an annual event.

Together. Married parents should read it too: it might make them more aware of situations they could find themselves in one day, and perhaps make them think twice about separation or divorce.

Jenny Morris makes being a single mum sound very positive, which I found



Rollo May's *The Art of Counselling*, first published in the USA in 1989, now has its first British edition. Souvenir Press, £7.99.

extremely refreshing. She shows that - contrary to popular opinion - children do not suffer from the lack of a father if they are given careful, sensitive management, and can often benefit from a close, stable, one-to-one relationship.
Carolanne Peacock

How can you look smart and "right" on a slender budget? In a new, occasional series, *DN* helps people achieve it.

Clothes, mainly from Marks & Spencer, selected by Ginny Jenkins, clothing adviser at the Disabled Living Foundation

Rosie Blake loves her job. She is a part-time demonstrator in the equipment centre at the Disabled Living Foundation (DLF), the charity which gives information and advice on all aspects of living with a disability.

When people drop in, Rosie is there to show them round, try out equipment with them, answer questions, extract information from the DLF's huge database and send them away armed with what they want to know. She is also

Look for a lifestyle



Home ground: Rosie is ready to demonstrate any DLF wheelchair. She wears a red military jacket with gold buttons £39.95, and hounds-tooth tailored shorts £25. GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

as soon as possible. There's a great life out there.

"Once, when I forgot my file, the master wouldn't send me down three flights of stairs to the detention room, so I said I'm going, and I did. We felt really normal: we had got into trouble."

Rosie shares an adapted flat run by the Peabody Trust and travels to and from work with Dial-A-Ride. Her occupational therapist helped to get funding for an indoor-outdoor Carters Cruiser so she can get about on her own. She has a home help twice a week.

Outside work, "I've very few disabled friends. I've been clubbing, but some places refuse to let me in. I like the theatre, classical concerts, and the pub, when I can afford it."

Clothes for work must be "reasonably smart, no jeans". Rosie wears skirts or leggings and big tops, often in black - "they're slimming". She has no problems dressing, but



Keeping up-to-date: Christine Buckley hands over a new list. Rosie wears embroidered blouse £43.30 and wool skirt with high back for wheelchair users £41.89, from Rolli-Moden. For a catalogue, tel: (0227) 765101.

involved in training courses and is responsible for keeping all the literature up to date.

Besides having a BTEC First in Caring and knowledge of the equipment, she is a wheelchair user: "I can identify with people's problems and help them."

"I always wanted to go into caring. In this job I can use my experience and I have contact with clients which I really enjoy. I look forward to coming to work - that's the most important thing."

The job, a new one, funded mainly by the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, is the result of DLF's research among users.

"We found people with disabilities like to see disabled people in the centre who have real experience and expertise," says Rosie's boss, senior information adviser Christine Buckley. "The result is everything we had hoped. Rosie has picked up the skills well. She gets a very good response from people."

Educated at a special school with forays into a neighbouring mainstream school, Rosie has definite views about which she preferred. "I believe disabled children should be integrated



Night out: Cotton/lycra body £14.99, black cotton leggings, £16.99, viscose patterned shirt £35 and suede boots £25.



Talking baths: Rosie in a cool flowered culottes dress, £29.99

finding smart, comfortable shoes is always a trial and currently she has one pair and some ankle boots. She shops at Etam, C&A and occasionally Next.

She "loved" the Rolli-Moden embroidered blouse, but thought it was expensive. The skirt was "ok if you stay sitting in a wheelchair".

While she "really liked" the summer dress and the check shorts, she felt uncomfortable with shocking pink, because it reminded her of little girl pink which she refuses to wear.

Still smiling at the end of the day, she commented: "I never get the chance to be glam. It's done a lot for me."

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The Eaglet has landed

DN's motoring correspondent David Griffiths checks out the Eaglet motor home

The Eaglet is Eagle Motor Caravans' first entry into the disability market. If the quality of finish is any guidance, I hope it won't be the last.

Based on a short wheel-base automatic Ford Transit 120 panel van with automatic transmission and power-assisted steering, the Eaglet is more what our American friends would term a "day-van" than a fully-fledged motor home.

The example on display at the Camping and Caravan Show in February was aimed at a wheelchair-using driver, the driving seat having been removed. Access was via a sliding side door and an Interbility HBC one-piece hydraulic lift, hung to the left with the supporting pillar up

on wet days when Transits seem to collect muck.

However, I question the wisdom of having a standard roof. It is higher than the door frame which suggests that anyone who can get in must be okay when inside. But even my head was pretty near the top, and some people would find the close proximity of the "ceiling" a mite wearisome.

The intended owner of the display model was tetraplegic, so a drop-down bed with overhead grab rail had been fitted, the unit behind hinged to the off-side.

The trim was identical to that on larger Eagle offerings, with wood veneers and a very professional finish. The door handles stuck out a bit. While appearing easy-to-use, they might be vulnerable to a rough brush from a wheelchair hand rim or footplate.

Externally, the Eaglet would not be out of place in the most exclusive motor-camping company.

Airide suspension to the rear reduces roll and provides



The Eaglet: a touch of class for weekends or everyday.

behind the front passenger seat. This allows you clear access to the rear "L" shaped living plan which includes sink, cooking facilities, worktops and storage.

Interestingly, the one-piece top-hung tailgate option rather than twin rear doors has been adopted, allowing a pleasant panoramic aspect when you're "tied to the galley" as well as better rearward vision for the driver. A wash/wipe unit considerably enhances things

added stability and comfort.

For weekends away, plus practical everyday transport, the Eaglet has much to commend it. As someone who owns a similar type of vehicle, I can vouch for the wonderful sense of freedom and enhanced mobility these conversions give you.

Prices range from £12,900-£19,200. Exempt from VAT and car tax. Eagle Motor Caravans, tel: (0705) 477177.



Cheers to a good idea: (back row left to right) Joyce Smith, president of the West Region of The Spastics Society, Colin Dann, Mayor of Gillingham, Phil Hunter, Thorngrove manager, Janet Dann, Mayoress of Gillingham, Olive Roey, vice-chairman of The Camping and Caravaning Club. (Front row) Jean and David Griffiths.

MICHAEL J HEAD

A dream come true

David Griffiths reports
Picture the scene: spring sunshine, dappled clouds dancing over a gently rolling landscape, mature pines standing guard against the chill winds, Jacob sheep munching steadily along the fence ...

Philip Hunter, manager of The Spastics Society's Thorngrove Centre which specialises in horticulture for disabled people, first came to me with that dream in 1987.

He wished to share their surroundings by creating an integrated camp site with REAL facilities for disabled

people. Other sites with "disability connections" showed scant if any regard for integration. Thorngrove would be different.

Five years later, I was honoured to be asked to perform the official opening outside the superb amenities block which forms the hub of this very attractive site.

Situated in the Dorset countryside just south of the A303 at Gillingham, Thorngrove makes an excellent touring base, a rally field, a stop-over en route to Cornwall, or just a place to relax at the

weekend. If you are disabled and have little experience of camping, or have doubts about it, a visit to Thorngrove could change your mind.

For those who have worked so hard to make it possible, Thorngrove is a fine example of good practice and foresight of which they can be proud. Do try it.

To stay at Thorngrove costs £2.50 a night for adults, 85p for under 16s. 20 per cent discount for groups of disabled people. Electric hook-up £1.50 a night extra. Tel: (0747) 822242.

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The award winning Clio is big on choice too.

For example, power steering is an option on the RL 1.9 litre diesel and both the RT 1.4 and 1.8 litre petrol versions.

A four speed, twin range, automatic gearbox is also available on 1.4 litre RN and RT models. Power steering is standard on all Clio automatics.

The five door Clio can also be fitted with a Kempf rear sliding door conversion and electric hoist to make stowing

a wheelchair behind your seat a simple, push button operation. Coupled with its handling, spaciousness and quietness the Clio gives the motorist a real sense of freedom.

In fact, most models in the Renault range can be adapted to make the disabled motorist's life easier and more enjoyable with modifications by specialists including hand controls, swivel seats and flip-over accelerator.

Renault is an approved manufacturer on the Motability Car Purchase Scheme so if you receive a mobility allowance you're eligible to choose from most of the Renault range and purchase at the special Motability rate.

Ask your local Renault Dealer for details of the Renault Disabled Motorists Programme, special finance terms and any required modifications, or return the coupon below.



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FILM

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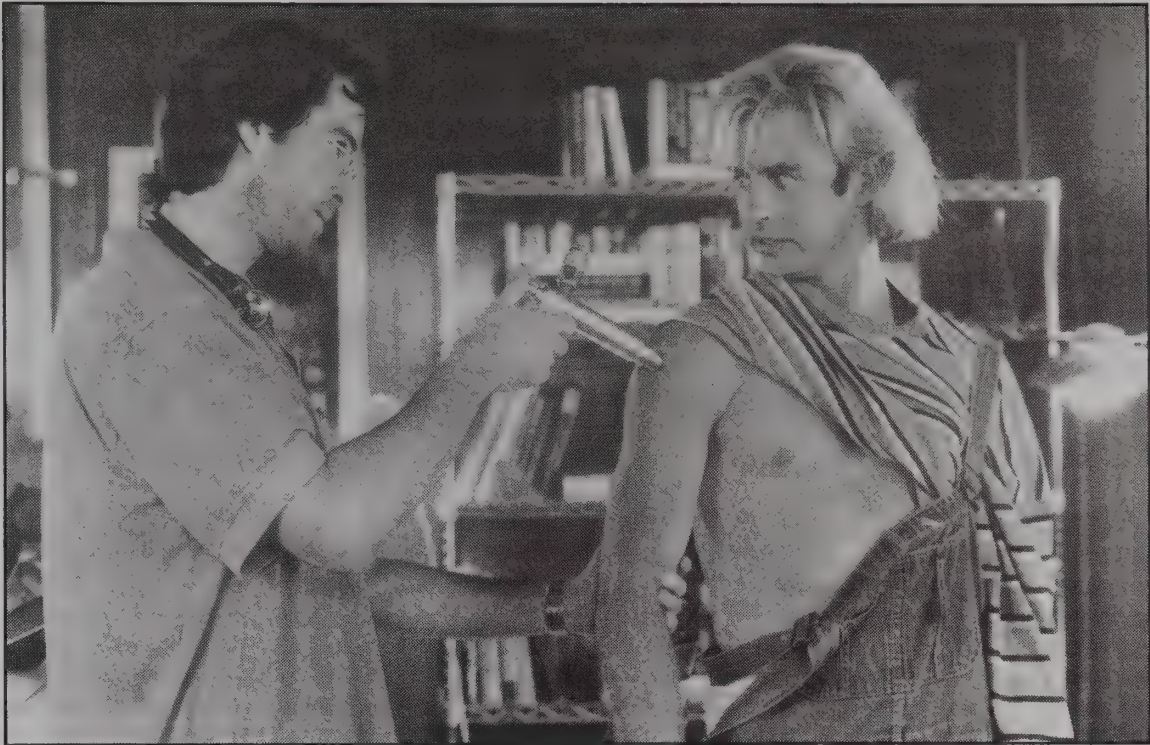
Imagine a story by Stephen King which crosses *Frankenstein* with the world of Nintendo computer games and you have a rough idea of what *The Lawnmower Man* (15) is about.

There is nothing wrong with updating a Gothic classic to give it contemporary relevance, but this techno-thriller warning against the misuse of science fails on all counts.

For a film wanting to be taken seriously, it has a howler of a title - it's like calling a big-budget, state-of-the-art suspense movie *The Roadsweeper*.

The central character Jobe (Jeff Fahey), is a lawnmowing young man with learning difficulties. In a truly unbelievable performance, Mr Fahey appears to base his impression of learning difficulties on the Scarecrow from *The Wizard of Oz*.

Jobe is frequently beaten by his surrogate parent, Father



Dr Angelo (Pierce Brosnan) gives lawnmowing Jobe (Jeff Fahey) the needle.

McKeen (Jeremy Slate) and maligned by the community. Dr Angelo is a brilliant scientist working on accelerating intelligence in chimpanzees until he turns his attention to Jobe. Do the film-makers assume there is some hierarchical life system with apes one step below people with learning difficulties?

Anyway, as the decidedly dodgy advertising bumpf says, "God made Jobe simple. Science made him God." He learns Latin in two hours,

loses his virginity, and ultimately gets lost on a power trip, making him a threat to the world.

The stylistic marriage between live performers and computerised "virtual reality" animation is an unhappy one. As the plot lumbers to its conclusion, the animated clash between good scientist and modern-day *Frankenstein* is about as emotionally engaging as an Open University course on data modelling.

So, to sum up the progress

of the disabled character: he is vilified at the start, experimented on like a guinea-pig, and then exterminated. Didn't someone else do this to disabled people in the '30s and '40s? Funny little man with a black, toothbrush moustache and a turnip-head hairstyle?

So much for updating an old idea. Where disability issues are concerned, *The Lawnmower Man* is about as contemporary as the Grim Reaper and his scythe.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

TV

A Brief History of Time (C4, 3 May) was a beautifully-made concoction which paid homage not just to Professor Stephen Hawking's work, but also to the man himself.

Hawking's bestselling book, *A Brief History of Time*, is exclusively about his theory, and rightly so. His work is revolutionary enough to be examined on its own.

Hawking the man is interesting, but the programme-makers seemed to think people wouldn't watch unless the documentary hinged on the idea of a "disabled genius coming up with revolutionary ideas".

Although the strands about the man and his work welded well together, a separate programme on each would have been better. That way, disability would not cloud academic achievement.

Out of Sight (C4, March/April) was a disability *All Our Yesterdays*, looking at the way society treated disabled people in the '40s, '50s and '60s. Disabled people were institutionalised in a more obvious way then - I hope non-disabled viewers weren't fooled into thinking that these disabling forces no longer exist today.

People First (C4, March/April) had three pairs of programmes. Peter White presented the best two on anti-discrimination legislation; there were a couple about Disabled People's International; and two about people with learning difficulties. They brought disability concerns to a peak-time audience and were all, in differing ways, thought-provoking.

The deaf magazine series *Sign On* (C4, 24 March onwards) is only fractionally into its 30-weeks run. It is co-produced by the team responsible for *Listening Eye* and a brand new company of deaf programme-makers, Deaf Owl Productions (DN, February).

Sign On will focus on four areas on a turn-about basis: one week it will be *Newswatch*, interpreting ITN news for a deaf audience; then *Deaf World*, a chance to see internationally-produced items; *Your News* is the viewer-participation slot; and finally, *At Leisure* will deal with sport and the arts.

Commendable though this variety is, it doesn't leave room for the type of in-depth documentary that was the hallmark of *Listening Eye*. Nevertheless, it is essential viewing.

Chris Davies



PAINTINGS

Living art

The Royal Academy of Arts (RA) and the Living Paintings Trust, which produces raised images of paintings for visually impaired people to enjoy, have launched a new album.

Each collection contains ten famous paintings reproduced in raised diagrams known as "thermoforms". An audio tape explains how to trace around each picture with your fingers, describing the work, the artist, and the time in which they lived. Colour postcards let you share the pleasure of "viewing" with sighted companions.

The album is sponsored by The Vision Charity, an organisation formed by the video industry to buy equipment for visually impaired and dyslexic people, especially children.

Works included in it are Sir Joshua Reynolds' *Portrait of the Artist*, and Michelangelo's *Madonna and Child with John the Baptist*.

Over 200 copies will be produced and distributed free to visually impaired people anywhere in the UK through the Living Paintings Trust Library Service. Alternatively, you can use them in the RA galleries.



Disabled Artist Carolyn James, a Trustee, with an album.

(Other RA facilities include a lift to all floors, occasional touch workshops and tours, sign-interpreted tours, sculptures to touch at the Summer Exhibition, large print labels and a catalogue.)

This is the Trust's seventh album. Others feature works from the National Gallery, the Tate, the Impressionists, the pre-Raphaelites, Monet and the Clore Foundation of British Paintings.

For many people, they have started an endless, exciting adventure around galleries, or

given much enjoyment at home.

Future plans of the Trust include items from the Burrell Collection, stained glass, tapestries, and textiles. There is a demand for albums of flowers, birds and gardens - the list is as endless as the Trust's energy, expertise, goodwill and dedication. All it needs is more funding!

Gioya Steinke

RA, tel: 071-439 7438.
Living Paintings Trust, tel: (0734) 700776.

VIDEO

S: subtitles. NS: no subtitles.

1. THE COMMITMENTS (FOX VIDEO) Rise and fall of raunchy Dublin soul band. (S)

2. CITY SLICKERS (FIRST INDEPENDENT) City-loving pals get sore in the saddle. (NS)

3. BACKDRAFT (CIC) Epic tale saved by excellent special effects. (NS)

4. SUBURBAN COMMANDO (EV) Hulk Hogan as intergalactic bounty hunter. (NS)

5. THE HARD WAY (CIC) Action comedy with Hollywood actor shadowing tough cop for research. (NS)
Andy Kimpton-Nye

*Chart courtesy of MRIB.

Look out for

Sign language interpreted performance of *Cabaret*. 18 June. Crucible Theatre Sheffield. Tel: (0742) 769922.

Gaslight by Venturers Drama Group for the Visually Handicapped. 2-4 July. Mandela Theatre Club, London. Contact Terry Robinson, tel: 081-954 2311.

Share Your Problems

with Ann Darnbrough

The sanctity of life versus the dignity of death



Lucy's mother, let us call her Joan, has Alzheimer's Disease and is living in a home. Joan was a very lively woman with lots of interests. She is now unresponsive to life going on around her, and only occasionally and fleetingly recognises her husband and daughter when they visit her.

The situation is particularly hard for her husband who is in his 80s. If Joan had died after the strokes she has also suffered, her nearest and dearest could have grieved, while at the same time cherishing their lifetime memories of a much-loved mother and wife.

Lucy feels guilty that her mother is still alive, the doctors having resuscitated her against the family's request. Joan had expressed a wish that, should the occasion arise, she did not want to be kept alive at any cost. She said she didn't want to end up like the people she now lies alongside.

Lucy feels that keeping her mother alive is like "playing God", when in the natural course of events she would have died after the strokes. She believes nature, in these circumstances, should have been allowed to take its course.

She takes turns with her

father to visit Joan every day but feels she is seeing the body of a person who has become a "vegetable" and who has no resemblance to Joan.

Lucy raises the issue at a time when we read in the newspapers of a "survivor" of the 1987 Hillsborough football stadium disaster, Tony Bland, being kept alive on a liquid feed and with antibiotics to counter the infections he is prone to.

Tony, classified as being in a persistent vegetative state, knows nothing of this, but his parents say that unlike other Hillsborough parents, they cannot mourn the loss of their child and get on with their lives. They are condemned by the law to watch the living death of their once vital, active son, who has no prospect of recovery or beneficial change.

His father said: "His quality of life is nil. There should be a time when you say enough is enough."

Are there readers who have had similar experiences? Grieving is a very important process when we lose loved ones, and this is recognised by those around us at such times. Lucy says not enough is being done for those who cannot grieve while the body of the

loved one is being kept artificially alive.

How can we extend our compassionate concern to all those who visit hospitals and homes to sit by the bedside of a relative who is almost unrecognisable and effectively no longer with them?

And the big question: do you think that life support machines should be switched off - that a time comes when you say "enough is enough"?

Lonely hearts

My February column struck a chord with those who wrote to express their frustration at a lack of any satisfying personal relationships. It prompted two heterosexual men, neither of whom described their disabilities, to unburden themselves after years of unhappiness.

One man said: "I am 42, I have never made love to a

much brought up as kept down by my now-dead mother. I was not allowed to speak to anyone unless they spoke to me first; I was not allowed to express myself, because nobody was interested in what I had to say; I was not allowed to make friends with a girl; I was not allowed to know anything about the facts of life.

"I masturbate regularly, and have books galore with female figures. When I have been to a city, I have always sought the services of a prostitute, but of course there is no love involved. I am, therefore, still lonely - although I have many interests."

I have advised these readers as best I can.

I would be interested to hear from others who may have had similar problems but have managed to overcome some of the them to achieve a happy relationship.

Any advice you could give would be welcomed by these men and by others with similar difficulties. In particular, let me know if you found any individual person or agency particularly helpful, even if these are local.

Help needed

How lovely it was to receive all those letters offering help to David with proof-reading and creative editing (*DN*, April). David wanted to make use of his writing skills (on top of being a full time social worker), but as a visually impaired person he was experiencing difficulties. *DN* readers rose magnificently to the occasion.

Just one more plea for now - is there anyone out there who could offer help with documents and sorting out forms for a visually impaired woman living in north west London? It really needs to be someone on the spot who can call in and who can manage the four flights of stairs up to her flat.

I have had lots of letters about words people hate (*DN*, April), and will print them next month.

Please keep writing on this, and all the other subjects we've discussed this month, to me c/o *DN*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

Lin Berwick, *DN's* telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.

Is there any person or organisation who will take on the funding of this essential service for 1992-3? It costs £3,600 a year. Please call the editor, Mary Wilkinson on 071-636 5020.

woman. I have never held a woman in my arms. The only sex I am going to get is from blue videos or sex magazines. I have wanted love so much, to love and be loved, I have craved it so much, that now I do not want it at all."

The other man wrote: "I am lonely, and obsessed with girls and women. I am desperate for female companionship."

Someone else, who has epilepsy, wrote a while ago: "I am nearly 58 years of age, a bachelor (although not at my own choice), and was not so

PROFILE



Lorna Fitzsimons

Next month, Lorna Fitzsimons becomes the new president of the National Union of Students (NUS). Lorna, 24, from London, has dyslexia and wants to be a role model for others with the condition.

Born in Lancashire, she went to Wardle High School where she excelled in music and art but found reading and writing a frustrating struggle.

"I have problems reading any sequence of words or letters. I sometimes jumble my words up and couldn't read until I was in my teens," she explained.

She was placed in a class for slow learners and treated by a child psychologist who thought dyslexia was "just an excuse made by middle class women who had a lazy child."

"It was an emotional nightmare. I felt very vulnerable and I still feel phobic about seeing a blank piece of paper."

When she was 17, her family paid £78 for a private assessment by the National Institute of Dyslexia which confirmed her disability.

When Lorna left school at 15 she was keen to go to art college, but was told by one lecturer that he couldn't teach someone with her disability.

"It is very frightening when someone who holds the key to your education says they cannot help you."

Undeterred, she won a place at the Loughborough College of Art and Design, took a degree in woven textiles, and became interested in politics.

A staunch Labour Party supporter, she rose through the ranks of the NUS before being elected national president at this year's spring conference.

"My main aim is to secure the union's long term future. There needs to be reform and my election shows that students want it."

She wants more access to further and higher education for disabled students and more teacher training on dyslexia.

"Everyone has the right to fulfill themselves through basic state education but until there is a greater understanding of dyslexia, children will continue to be branded instead of helped."

Tim Russell

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PATRICK BAGLEE

It's all in a day's work

Careers (6): Michael Turner finds that variety is the spice of life when you work for a charity

administration, publicity and with a community arts project.

The best thing about the traineeship was that there was very little training. Most of it was "on the job experience", with some short formal courses to back it up.

The beauty of doing training - or volunteering - in any small voluntary organisation is that opportunities arise to take real responsibility and gain "coal face" experience. During my spell in the publicity department the publicity officer was ill and was away for four weeks, leaving me to gain my first solo experience of producing a leaflet.

But it also works the other way: working in a small organisation means there aren't people whose only job it is to hump in 100 boxes of the new booklet you've produced (and hump half of them out again to take to Naidex), so you all have to muck in.

It was the publicity work that really grabbed my interest at the arts centre. I enjoyed the combination of creativity (especially copy writing), the technical skills of printing and typesetting, and straight-forward admin work for when I didn't have the energy for anything more stimulating.

Unfortunately, the apparent success of the training did not translate into a job. Despite all the positive noises that I'd heard about involving disabled people in the arts, what a good idea the traineeship was, how capable I was, etc, there was

Voluntary work can be a useful way into a full-time paid job, but it can be a difficult financial decision. Most

influence these issues, but whichever charity you work for, ultimately you have to be prepared for compromise.

development I knew I had to move on.

But I felt a curious reluctance to do so. After my experience of unemployment it felt greedy to be looking for another job after such a short time. But I made the move to GLAD.

At that time, three-and-a-half years working for the same organisation would have seemed like a life time. Looking back now, it's amazing how quickly they have flown by, which I take as a sign of the job satisfaction I've found at GLAD.

In any line of work there are bound to be ups and downs. Wages in the voluntary sector are often lower although I have been fortunate so far in being paid reasonably well. The opportunity for development can offset the lower wages.

I've found challenges and responsibilities that I don't think I would have found elsewhere and have built up my career to a higher level than I would have reached in the commercial sector.



What's that then? Michael Turner and colleague Liz Appleton spotting a typo.

JAMIE FACER

charities will offer to help with travel expenses, but if you are on benefits any sort of payment, even for travel expenses, can cause a problem so check with your local citizens' advice bureau.

I was on the point of returning to computer training when my break came. I applied to a large disability charity for a job as a publicity officer and made them an offer they couldn't refuse. My application stressed my experience of publicity work and of disability, and argued that these qualifications were essential to doing the job.

My time there gave me opportunities to build on the skills I had developed so far. For example, producing the annual report was the largest and most significant job I had undertaken, and working with the charity's advertising agency gave me an insight into a whole new area of work.

Despite these positive experiences, the job had its problems.

As a politically aware disabled person working towards a situation where charity in the traditional sense is not necessary, you are bound to find yourself in a dilemma. Inevitably, there are going to be times when your own views are not entirely those of your employer. You have some opportunities to

What I hadn't allowed for were the personal pressures of being one of very few disabled people working at the head office. To achieve any career

Michael Turner found all his jobs through advertisements in the *Guardian*. *Disability Now* also has adverts for vacancies in the voluntary sector. The Arts Council provided a bursary for Michael's traineeship and are currently funding a similar scheme for a trainee theatre administrator at Graeae, tel: 071-383 7541.

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Michael Turner

JOB: Head of information and promotions for a voluntary organisation

QUALIFICATIONS: BA in Film and Literature, course in arts administration.

SKILLS: Ability to communicate, organise and manage people and resources. Knowledge of print production and basic graphic design skills.

no job at the end of it. Even when a new post was created in the publicity department where I had trained, I was unsuccessful.

Six months of unemployment followed. I did voluntary work which kept me busy and is a useful way to gain experience and make contacts, but it was a difficult time, with little to relieve the depression of searching for work.

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6/92

Pack your bags and leave town

We are thinking about summer holidays here at *DN*. Whether you are going to Barbados or Bognor Regis you need to pack carefully and think about what will fit in the back of the car or into a suitcase.

If you need a wheelchair, most of your boot space is taken up before you have even thought about packing your bucket and spade. Try the **portachair** system from Peter J Lea. £61.45 (inc VAT and p&p). This is fitted on to standard towbar bolts so that a folding chair can be carried on the back of your car. Optional extras include a weather-proof cover and a lighting board and number plate (which must be used if the chair obscures the vehicle's own system).

Good map and guide book reading are essential if you are to get the most out of your holiday. Visually impaired people could try a **magnifying lens**



Up and away: the portable wheelchair ramp from AX-S in use at St Williams College, York

from Nottingham Rehab. The pocket lens is lightweight and unbreakable. Available in two

sizes, credit card £2.29, wallet size £4.08. Tel: (0602) 452345 and ask for Ways and Means.

If you are worried that sight-seeing may be too tiring, why not try the **folding seat** or **folding travel stick** from Coopers? £24.99 and £26.99 (inc VAT, plus £2.50 p&p). Both are designed to be a walking stick and a seat. The folding seat opens outwards and provides a stable nylon seat. The travel stick is like a conventional walking stick with a fold down bicycle-size seat at the top. It folds away into a padded shoulder bag which doubles as a seat cushion. Tel: (0428) 682251.

If you are not going to Barbados you are going to have to prepare yourself for rain. The

POD Compact, an all weather wheelchair cover which clips onto the back of the chair, is pulled over when the rain begins. £54.70 (ex VAT and p&p) from Disabled Living and Design, tel: 061-434 1989.

Getting into holiday attractions might be easier for wheelchair or scooter users with the new **AX-S portable ramp** from Marshall Access Services. The ramp weighs 17 kg and will carry a 20 stone person in a wheelchair weighing up to 75 kg. £389 (plus VAT and p&p). Tel: (0653) 698147.

Finally, don't forget to send your postcards. If you have poor hand co-ordination you might find it easier to write your "wish you were here's" using Nottingham Rehab's **Easiwriter**. It is a standard ballpoint pen fitted into a large hand grip which can be rolled across the card. £19.60 (inc VAT and p&p). Tel as above.



Out back: the portachair system from Peter J Lea

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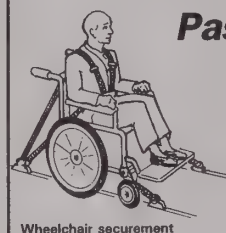
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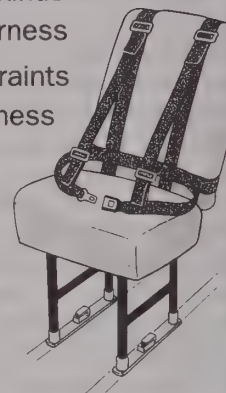
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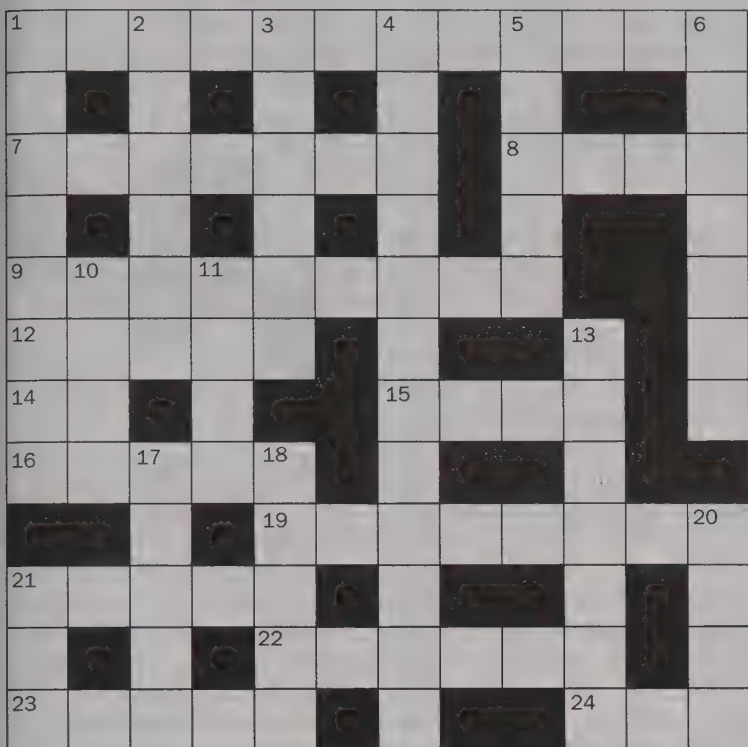
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Disability of user(s) _____

DN's crossword

Answers page 31

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Puts out fire (12)
7. Marking (7)
8. See 9 (9)
9. Sensual area of body (9,4)
12. Motorised bicycle (5)
13. Period of time (3)
14. Silence — golden (2)
15. Older family member (4)
16. Greek goddess of corn (5)
19. Punctuation mark (8)
21. Kind of bolt (5)
22. Business skill (6)
23. Black doll (5)
24. Swallow small amount (3)

DOWN

1. Pied mice (anag.)
2. In good form (3-3)
3. Denial (anag.)
4. Impolite (12)
5. All shapes and — (5)
6. Exclusive girls' school (7)
10. Kind of flower (4)
11. Richard —, film star (4)
13. Flags (7)
17. Party (5)
18. Malaysian dish (5)
20. Hold (4)
21. Small carpet (3)

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust bought these feet from the BBC to put fun into fundraising. What might Robert Dixon be saying as he boldly steps where no four-year-old has stepped before? Answers please by 11 June to DN, address page 2.

Create-a-caption



CF TRUST

... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ...

Answers page 31

1. Who won the FA Cup?
2. Who was found innocent after 18 years in prison?
3. Why did the Archbishop of Canterbury criticise company directors?
4. Why did Irish Bishop Eamonn Casey resign?
5. Who was made Governor of

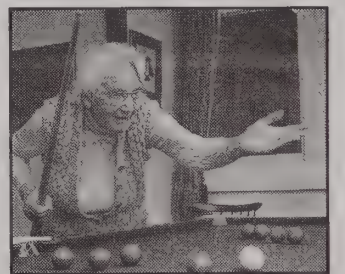
- Hong Kong?
6. Which '30s film star died?
7. Which European country had a huge public sector strike?
8. Which two famous comedians died?

9. In which country did a six-year-old boy drive his father's car 360 miles?
10. Where did people riot after a jury acquitted police of beating up a black motorist?

May winner

The £10 goes to T L Lewis of Gwent for: "So you think I'm too old to play with balls, eh?"

Thanks again to everyone who entered the competition. Keep those giggle-makers coming in!



LIVERPOOL DAILY POST AND ECHO

My kingdom for a loo

"Well, now, that's an interesting question," said the very affable car park attendant when asked for the nearest loo for disabled people.

"I'd love to help you but, d'you know, that's the first time I've been asked for one. I'm afraid I've no idea where you'd find one."

He rubbed his neck for inspiration. "Tell you what. The tourist office would know. They're only a few hundred yards along the front."

Then, with a tinge of genuine sadness he said: "Oh, but they'd be closed at this time in the evening, wouldn't they?"

The police station might have known, were it open for more than a few hours daily ...

It took three more enquiries, 20 minutes re-parking the car and a short walk with three steps down before we arrived at Teignmouth's nearest disabled loo.

At Salcombe, another Devon resort, not even the receptionist at the health centre knew where to find one. It was finally discovered discreetly hidden behind others at the edge of a car park. One step down.

Exmouth's loo, although easily available, carried a warning notice that it closed

early during the winter. Folly 't'would be to take your bladder out after dusk.

Another has a short, steepish path up from the car park to the promenade. Then it's only a matter of walking or being pushed about a hundred and fifty yards.

For beginners, the element of surprise comes on arrival at the goal. You may be disappointed to find that most loos are kept locked against vandalism. Keys, provided by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) can be bought from a tourist office, if it's open. If not, you have to go to the local council offices.

Inside, the loos are agreeably spacious. This is just as well because disability arrives in many forms, be it blindness or arms in plaster.

The help of a spouse may be needed within the loo. Incontinence equipment can be fallible and spring a leak. Then a change to reserve equipment and a change of clothes has to be contrived in this haven. This is living adventurously.

Hotels have first floor bathrooms, but not all have lifts up to them. Hardly any hotels or cafes have unisex, ground floor loos. Modernised pubs are the best bet.

One country house hotel proudly offering facilities for the disabled has formidable concrete steps to its entrance. Porters with improvised ramps are needed before you can pop in for a snack or the loo.

Local authorities' purpose-built lavatories, though admirable in design if not location, are often treated like poor relations once they are established. A hook or peg on a door would help. One I visited had a basin and cold water tap, but the tap refused to provide water. None was dirty, but several looked neglected and unmopped.

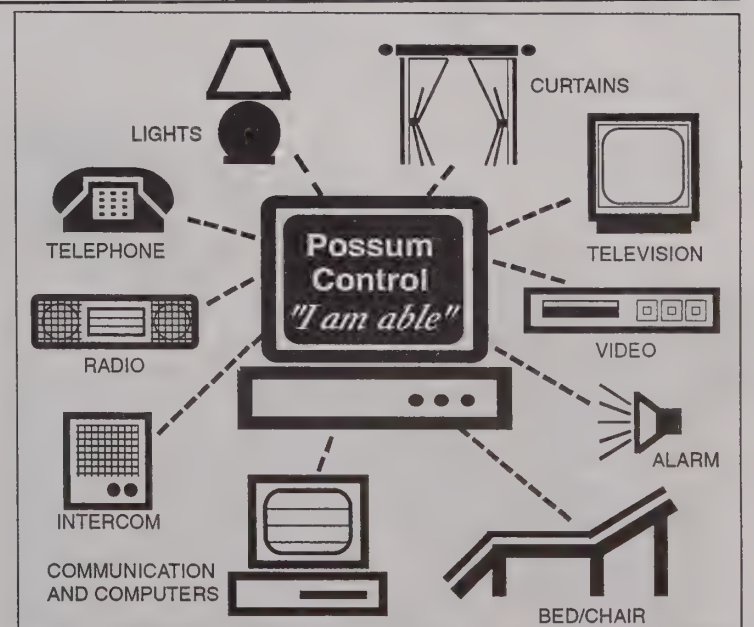
"We're sick of complaining to the council about that one", said the tourist office. "For heaven's sake write to them. They take no notice of complaints we pass on."

A note of caution about outdoor events too. One horse show I visited in summer offered ladies a narrow wooden shed, in the nettles, against the hedge.

Perhaps the AA should introduce a star rating system for our lavatories?

Jean Patterson

For more information about the National Key Scheme, please contact RADAR, tel: 071-637 5400.



Home control - for your security and independence. Possum supply equipment that enables a disabled person, with any controlled movement, to access facilities within their home environment. This gives greater independence and an improved quality of life. Wholly owned by two Charities, Possum have been helping disabled people for over 30 years.

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Please send further details of how Possum can improve the quality of life for myself/parent/child/friend. Possum Controls Ltd Middlegreen Road, Langley, Slough, SL3 6DF. Telephone: 0753 579234. Fax: 0753 512840

Working Together for Access, a manual for local access groups, costs £7 (inc p&p) from the Publications Section, Access Committee for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ, tel: 071-233 2566. Also in braille or on tape.

The Disability Rights Handbook, 17th edition, costs £6.95 (inc p&p) from the Disability Alliance Educational and Research Association, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA, tel: 071-247 8776.

Action for Blind People has produced a **Visible Action** resource pack aimed at increasing the numbers of visually impaired people recruited into open employment. Free from Helen Garner, Action for Blind People, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ, tel: 071-732 8771.

DISCERN, (logo right) is an organisation that offers information, advice and counselling to disabled people on sexual matters. Contact DISCERN,

32 Heathcoat Street, Nottingham NG1 3AA, tel: (0602) 588043.

Nominations are invited for the 1992 **Whitbread Volunteer Action Awards**. If you know someone who "works tirelessly for a good cause" you have

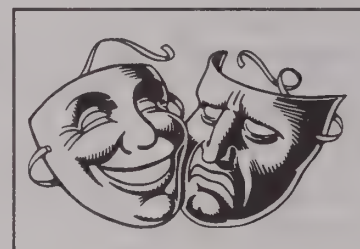
information centres in the county or tel: (0743) 252594.

Disability Action has launched a benefits awareness project in Northern Ireland. The group is running information seminars and providing a benefits telephone enquiry line. Tel: (0232) 491011, lines open 10am to 4pm.

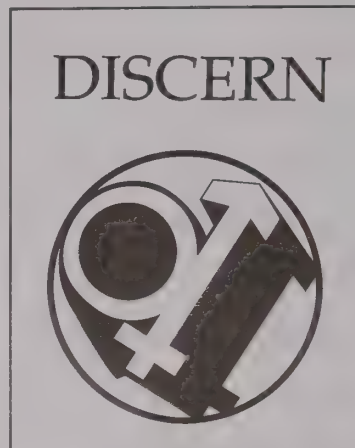
Your Benefit, a booklet from the RNIB, is available in large print, tape and braille formats and costs £1 for individuals and £3 for organisations. It is also available on tape in Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Bengali and Punjabi. Contact: RNIB Customer Services, PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 6WS, tel: (0345) 023153.

People First, the user-run organisation promoting the rights of people with learning difficulties, has a new office. The address is: Instrument House, 207-215 Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9DB, tel: 071-713 6400.

How Many Disabled People Are There in London? A leaflet



from the Greater London Association of Disabled People looks at statistics and shows why it is not possible to produce definitive statistics on disability. £1 (inc p&p) from GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA.



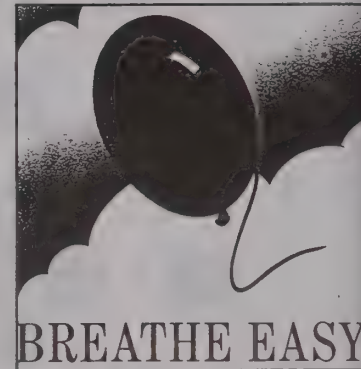
until 30 September to put their name forward. For more information and a nomination form, contact Whitbread Volunteer Action Awards, FREE-POST (BS6647), Bristol BS1 4YU, tel: (0272) 252000.

The Disabled Access Guide to London's West End Theatres (logo right) is free from West End theatres or with a 36p SAE from the Society of West End Theatre, Bedford Chambers, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8HQ, tel: 071-836 3193.

Claiming Disability Benefits, a Help the Aged advice leaflet, is free from Help the Aged shops or tel: (0800) 289404.

Shropshire With Confidence, a leaflet of holiday information and opportunities for disabled people, is free from tourist

Breathe Easy (logo below), the British Lung Foundation club for people with long-term lung problems, is free to join and you get a quarterly newspaper and a range of information leaflets. Contact Breathe Easy, British Lung Foundation, 8



Peterborough Mews, London SW6 3BL, tel: 071-371 7704.

The International Information Centre on Special Needs Education is now open at the Computer Centre for the Disabled, 115 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8JS, tel: 071-911 5000.

MOVES

Susan Daniels, who is partially deaf, becomes director of The National Deaf Children's Society at the beginning of this month. Keith MacBrayne has been appointed to the newly created post of manager of corporate and trust appeals with The National Autistic Society. Michael Radford has been appointed temporary finance director at The Spastics Society. Lorna Reith is the new director of the Disability Alliance. Valerie Richards is the new co-ordinator of the Brighton and Hove Federation of the Disabled.

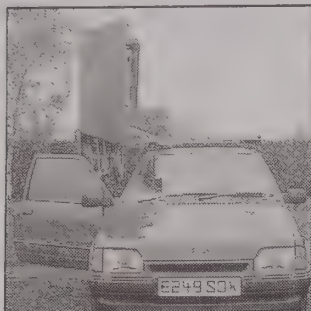
HELP!

Chisenhale Art Education Workshop is looking for disabled people to take part in practical workshops with an artist in residence. The project will be running this month and next, so contact Juliet Dean as soon as possible at the Chisenhale Gallery Art Education Workshop Studios, 64-84 Chisenhale Road, London E3 5EZ, tel: 081-981 4518.

The Sanctuary, a counselling and support service for women in Hammersmith and Fulham who have been raped or sexually assaulted, is looking for volunteers. If you can help, tel: 071-371 4666. For counselling minicom/tel: 071-371 4333.

Target 2000, an Essex Training and Enterprise Council research project, is looking at the work-related training needs of disabled people in the county. If you have any information on the number of disabled people of working age or on existing work-related provision/lack of provision, tel: (0375) 390092.

THE NEW AUTOCHAIR automatic wheelchair carrier.



Folds, lifts and locks away any wheelchair in less than 90 seconds, with no physical effort. Fits any car including ones without roof gutters. Simple to fit and use, is extremely reliable.

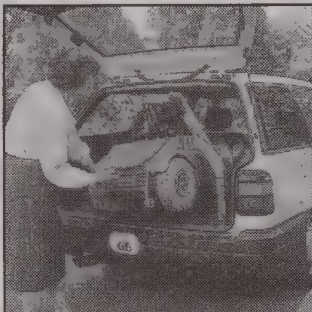
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Dear Joe,

Having a great time.

The facilities are superb and specifically designed for wheelchair users, and this particular hotel has 24 hour full care if needed.

We are enjoying our first holiday in years with none of the usual problems. The staff are so cheerful and caring and there's a minibuss for our daytrips. Bob.

John Grooms

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To Disabled People
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For reduced winter-break rates and more information, call John Hartley on 081-800 8695.

WHAT'S ON

Disabled Women Organise, a one day conference on 9 June in London. For more information contact Orla Fox at Greater London Association of Disabled People, tel: 071-274 0107.

North Wales Wheelchair Competition and Fun Day for disabled children. 17 June at Ysgol Gogarth, Llandudno. For more information, contact Dave Mitchell, tel: (0492) 517171.

Technology Information Centre Open Days run by the National Deaf Children's Society. 19-20 June in Birmingham. Free. Contact NDCS Technology Information Centre, tel: 021-454 5151.

1992 Mobility Roadshow. 19-20 June at Kings Hall, Belfast. More information from Northern Ireland Council on Disability, 2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3JR, tel: (0232) 491011.

National Trail Orienteering Championships, for disabled and able bodied people. 20-21 June near Wigan. Entry fee, on the day, £2.50, 50p under 19s. For details tel: (0606) 74269.

Dignity '92, an exhibition of bathroom and kitchen equipment for people with disabilities, at the Gateway Hotel, Nottingham on 24-25 June. For more information tel: (0602) 420836.

Creating an Empowering Service, a two day course on the empowerment of disabled people. 24-25 June in Bristol. Contact M Greenhalgh, IDEA, William House, 101 Eden Vale Road, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3QF, tel: (0373) 827635.

Accessible Transport '92. 25-26 June at the Twickenham Conference Centre, London. £235. Contact the Conference Administrator, London Accessible Transport Unit, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU, tel: 081-741 8363.

Employment and Disability into the 21st Century, Papworth Trust 75th Anniversary Conference. 1 July at Papworth in Bedfordshire. £50. Contact ETM Marketing Ltd, Enterprise House, Wilton Road, Humberston, Lincs DN36 4AS, tel: (0472) 210707.

Discovery '92, a two day festival of sport and leisure aimed at disabled people. 1-2 July at Lee Valley Park, which stretches from London to Hertfordshire. For a booking form and further details, contact Lee Valley Information Line, tel: (0992) 700766.

Computer Training for disabled people, throughout June at the GMCDP Young Disabled People's Project. Disabled people in Manchester and Salford should contact Natalie or Brenda on 061-273 8141 to book a place.

FOR SALE

AUTOMATIC WHEELCHAIR CARRIER (Autochair). Easy fitting, wheelchair with removable footplates. Excellent order. Reasonable offer, tel: Mr Courie, (0224) 790208.

TOWN & COUNTRY Booster electric 3-wheel scooter, new batteries. As new, £750. Also trailer to transport the above, £50. Tel: (0234) 213877 (Bedford - could deliver).

CARTERS CRUISER 2 with kerb climber, one year old. Genuine reason for sale. £2,300 new, accept £1,500 ono. Tel: (0924) 493543.

SEAT TERRA VAN 903cc, F reg, 12 month MOT, ramps and winch inc. 33,000 miles on clock. £2,200. Tel: (0924) 456578.

HOUSE WITH STAIRLIFT in Stevenage. £85,000. 3 bed semi. Easily maintained. Only half hour by rail to London. Tel: (0438) 351142.

ORTHOKINETICS SCOOTER, model 4304. 11 months old. Little used, as new, cost £1,745. Nearest offer to £1,150 secures. Tel: 081-541 1985 (Kingston).

FIAT FIORINO VAN. £4,395 ono. BEC 40 Horizon wheelchair. £855 ono. Tel: 021-770 2604.

CHAIRMAN METRO A REG, low mileage, 25,000 miles, vgc. Excellent visibility for wheelchair passenger. £1,650 ono. Tel: (0273) 566489 or 834415.

HOUSE ON BEAUTIFUL North Norfolk coast. Suitable for family with disabled person or granny. 3 beds plus annexe, lounge, dining room etc. Close to shops, beach, pub. £125,000 ono. Tel: Mr McIntyre (0508) 41367.

BATRICAR SHUTTLE, unused, as new. Cost £1,700. Complete with ramps and waterproof cover. Offers over £1,000. Tel: Reed (0792) 290234.

NIAGARA THERAPY CHAIR, 20 months old. Cost £2,695, accept £1,000 ono. Tel: 081-863 2259 (Harrow).

BEC 17 AND CHARGER 1982 in good working order when last used, needs new batteries. £100 ono. Tel: (0865) 776421 evenings or weekends.

EVEREST & JENNINGS WHISPER Elite powered wheelchair with charger and kerb climbers. £1,200. Tel: (0742) 584974.

VAUXHALL CAVALIER, 31,000

FIND A FRIEND

There is a short waiting list for Find-A-Friend ads. Do not worry if your advert is not in immediately; it will probably appear next month.

PROFESSIONAL, SOLVENT MAN, 36 with wobbly walk and talk, but with unhandicapped spirit, would like to meet a lady about same age with some of these qualities, especially the latter. Surrey/Herts/Berks. Box No. 439.

I AM 35 YEARS OLD. I am a wheelchair user with cp. I would like an able-bodied female penfriend. My interests are watching tv, computing and I run the disco at the day centre I attend. Box No. 440.

DISABLED MALE, 58, widower with sense of humour, likes travelling and meeting people. Would like to meet disabled/able-bodied female, any age. Box No. 441.

PROFESSIONAL, ATTRACTIVE female, 29, seeks an able-bodied American/European male of similar background for friendship, evenings out and possible romance. Non smoker (25-40 only). Genuine replies only. Box No. 442.

DISABLED LONDON LADY wants a friend with a car for outings. Will help with petrol. Box No. 443.

LADY, 39, with cp, walks with sticks

miles, B reg. HB power steering, hand controls, electric hoist for wheelchair. CB radio. £3,750 ono. Tel: 071-237 0379.

MICRO CAR VESSA TREKKA, red. Immaculate condition with see-through hood, collapsible and removable. Also with grab handle and battery charger. Used 4 times only, forced to sell for health reasons. £2,000. Tel: 081-573 4408.

CARTERS COMMODORE electric wheelchair, 2 years old. Front wheel drive, powered steering. Excellent condition, £700 or exchange for a lightweight manual wheelchair. Tel: (0325) 356390 (County Durham).

STANNAH STAIRLIFT, fitted in house in London NW11. Offers invited for quick sale. Tel: 081-455 3240.

MANGAR BATH LIFT. Only used once. As new, purchased 5 months ago, perfect condition. Tel: (0635) 253601.

RENAULT EXTRA CONVERSION for transportation of a wheelchair passenger, diesel, red, May 1990, extended warranty. Access ramp and chair clamps. £7,250 ono. Tel: (0246) 850890.

1985 BATRICAR. Yellow Avon. Extras - hood, valance and shopping bag. 12 volt, very little used. £825 ono. Tel: (0963) 40239.

ORTHO KINETICS chair, almost new. £400 ono. Tel: (0306) 885880 evenings only (South London).

VOYAGER ELECRIK SCOOTER, little used owing to illness. Comes apart in 5 parts. £700 or nearest offer. Tel: (0204) 694443 (Horwich).

VESSA TREKKA, purchased 4 May 1985. Very good condition, needs a good home. Price to be negotiated. Tel 051-604 0049 (9.30am-12.30pm).

ELAP ROTATING CAR SEAT for Renault. £80 ono. Good condition. Tel: Mrs Haile (0272) 660068 (Bristol).

CHAIRMAN ESCORT F reg, VGC, just serviced. £7,250. Also free to buyer of car Commodore hoist, lifts 20 stone from bed to wheelchair - electric powered. Tel: (0424) 429614 (Hastings).

GRORUD BISON BEDE STAIR-LIFT, 13ft, straight track, as new £895 ono. Tel: (0532) 693705 or (0850) 741867.

BATRICAR, good condition. £400 or near offer. Tel: 081-599 0759.

RANGER MK 2 by BEC. Heavy duty outdoor wheelchair designed to cope with

and also partially deaf. Would like to correspond with and perhaps later meet a male penfriend. My hobbies include watching tv, visiting places, dining out, cinema, cooking. Must be a car driver and live near Wiltshire/Hampshire borders. Box No. 444.

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. If you have a good quality head and shoulders picture of yourself that you would like us to print there is an extra £10 charge.

RETIRED AVON GENT, 67, alone in the world, needs companionship and to share life. Slightly disabled - right amputee through knee and deaf, but can communicate with hearing aid. Seeks widow or able-bodied/disabled female. Likes reading, music, loves country walks (my pace), visits to places, repairing things, can cook. Non smoker and non alcoholic. Religion, free church. No house or car but not destitute. Country preferred, any area. Box No. 445.

GAY MALE (NOT DISABLED), 25, slim, attractive graduate offers long term friendship to guy of similar age. Possibly with a view to living together. Non gay people are welcome to write for friendship. Box No. 446.

rough ground. Range 17 miles, cost over £1,000 new. Very little used, needs new batteries. £300 ono. Tel: (0588) 630009.

MINIVATOR STAIR LIFT, 12 steps. £500. Buyer to remove. Sheerness, Kent. Tel: (0795) 664160.

AUTOMATIC ADJUSTABLE BED made by Theraposture Ltd, little used, size 2ft 6in by 6ft 6in and includes massage facility. Cost £1,575 new, sell for £750 ono. Situated in Hythe nr Southampton. Buyer to make removal arrangements. Tel: Mr Guy or Mrs Sheffield (0703) 632733.

WANTED

SUITABLE CAR to hire for my wedding day in April 1993. I wish to travel in my wheelchair in the back with my husband beside me. Preferably white, good condition and local to Poole/Bmth area. Can anyone help? Please tel: (0202) 730206.

GENTS SURGICAL BOOTS with cork raise over 3in. Condition/foot size immaterial. Turn your old or unused boots into cash. Tel: (0382) 67451 (after 6pm please).

COUNCIL EXCHANGE. We have a 3 bedroom house, adapted for wheelchair in Dagenham, Essex, 10 miles central London. We need 3 bedroom property, anywhere considered. Can only exchange with wheelchair user. Box No. W1.

3 DOOR CAR fitted with power car chair which electrically lifts person into front passenger seat. Tel: (0442) 862410 (Herts).

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Please use the form on page 29 to place a small ad.

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Salary: £17,040 - £18,375
Leisure Services Department
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We would like to hear from you if you have experience in:

- handling finances, premises and people (approx four years)
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- work with voluntary organisations
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and you are:

- innovative and organised
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Actual removal costs, generous expenses allowance and help in finding temporary accommodation available in appropriate cases.

Interview dates: 29th/30th June 1992

Closing date: 16th June 1992

Post No. J590/4

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For an application form and fuller details: Tel: 0533 527099 (24 hours). Minicom Service - office hours only, or write to: The Recruitment & Equal Opportunity Development Section, Personnel & Management Services Department, B4 New Walk Centre, Leicester LE1 6ZG. Personal callers welcome 9-4.30 weekdays.

Job Sharers welcome - no partner required.

Disabled persons meeting the essential characteristics of the job are guaranteed an interview.

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We require a disabled person with experience of working in a multi-racial
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 responsible for research into the needs and concerns of disabled people as
 users of the Council's services.

Good communication and report writing skills are essential since you will
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Some attendance at evening meetings will be required.

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 extension 4729 between 9.30am & 4.30pm MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY.

This post is not available for Job Share.

Job details are available on tape upon request.

Closing date: 29th June 1992.

For an application form and further details apply to Recruitment
 Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17
 4JF. (Tel: 081 531 8899 - 24 hour answering service).

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1988 Nippy Tricycle, blue, 18,000
 miles. Taxed MOT. Windscreen, roof,
 side panels. Propel your wheelchair up
 the Nippy's ramp, secure, start the
 engine, freedom can be yours. £1,500.
Tel: RC Hayes (Leicester) Ltd
(0455) 213075.

TO LET

St Christopher's Fellowship
 is providing 3 bedsits fully
 adapted and furnished in a
 modern hostel suitable for
 young disabled people (17-21
 years old). For further details
 please contact Sandra Dyer
 on 071-370-1083/2522.

COMPUTERS

High specification Personal Computers
 and lightweight Notebooks (portable &
 the size of an A4 sheet) from as little as
 £699. All computers come fully tested,
 with software installed and complete
 with full instructions.
Call Parkley Ltd on 081 905 1611.

Information Technology Services

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINEES

Salary Circa £13,000

IT Services provides a range of development, support and consultancy
 services to a wide user base on mainframe and distributed hardware
 across an extensive network.

In a rapidly changing environment we need creative and flexible
 people with good communication skills, who can work to tight
 deadlines and understand the importance of quality. Vacancies exist
 in Development and Support.

We offer competitive salaries, good working conditions, and excellent
 career progression.

Please ring 081 576 5111 or 081 846 9398 (answerphone numbers),
 and leave your name, address and phone number, quoting reference:
 SF01/IT TRAINEE.

Closing date: 19th June, 1992.

We welcome applications regardless of gender, race, colour, ethnic
 origin, nationality, religious beliefs or practices, sexuality, age (up to
 65 years), or trade union activities and from people with disabilities,
 lesbians and gay men.

JOB SHARERS WELCOME

*We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities as
 they are currently under represented in this organisation*

Please note, C.Vs will not be considered.



DISABILITY

TRANSLATE POLICY INTO PRACTICE

Disability Policy Officer

£16,128 - £17,130 p.a. inc

Talking about equality of opportunity for people with disabilities
 is easy, but can you fully appreciate what having a disability
 really means? To do this we think you must have had direct
 personal experience of disability.

Your role will be to translate the Council's policy on employing
 people with disabilities into pragmatic day-to-day working
 practices.

Disability issues form a vital element of our equal opportunities
 policy here at Merton. That's why we are looking for an
 innovative individual who can fully appreciate the challenges.

You will have responsibility for a range of disability initiatives
 such as:

- identify employment issues
- the use of aids and adaptations
- developing general and specific awareness and training
 programmes to enable the council and staff to respond
 effectively to the needs of people with disabilities.

- access to buildings and council services
 - monitoring the success of the council's disability policies
- It is essential that you have knowledge of equal opportunities
 legislation relating to disability, codes of good practice and
 developments under European Community law.

You must be capable of undertaking research and analysing
 data and information, and have working experience of
 developing and implementing employment initiatives for people
 with disabilities.

Further information and an application form are
available from Support Services Division, Chief
Executive's Department, Civic Centre, London Road,
Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX or telephone 081 545 4033.

Closing date: 24th June 1992

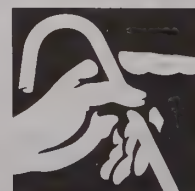
Please quote reference: C285



Job share applications welcome with
 or without a partner for fulltime posts except
 those indicated.

The council intend to introduce a non-smoking
 policy in its establishments and new appointees
 must be prepared to accord with this policy.

c . r . e . a . t . i . n . g o . p . p . o . r . t . u . n . i . t . i . e . s f . o . r a . l . l



action for blind people Information Assistant

£11,514 - £12,744 p.a. (plus benefits)

Applications are invited for the above post from those wishing to join
 an exciting and innovative project aimed at improving information
 provision for blind and partially sighted people, their families and
 carers.

You would join our newly established Information Centre at our
 Verney Road site and support the Manager and other staff team
 members. The post involves some enquiry work and a variety of
 administrative tasks such as handling the post, ordering
 publications, secretarial and other clerical work.

We are looking for a keen and enthusiastic candidate for this varied
 and demanding post. An ability to organise one's time, good
 keyboard skills and to get on well with people are essential
 requirements for this post.

If you would like an information pack, **contact Lindzy Bissette,**
Personnel Department, Action for Blind People, 14-16 Verney
Road, London, SE16 3DZ. Tel. 071 732 8771. Please specify if you
 require the information in large print, braille or tape. This post is
 open to job share.

Closing date for completed application forms is 15 June 1992
Interviews will be held 24 June 1992

Applications are welcome from all regardless of age, sex, ethnic
 origin, sexual orientation or disability, except so far as a person with
 a visual impairment will be considered to have an additional
 qualification for the post. We regret that our current premises have
 limited access for people with restricted mobility.

40th Anniversary 1992
THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Assistant Residential Social Workers Full Time
Grade 1 SCP 8 £7,830 pa

The Princess Marina has vacancies for Assistant Residential Social Workers at this Centre providing a service for 47 physically disabled adults.

The applicant must be flexible and enthusiastic although experience is not necessary.

For an application form or further information please contact, telephone (02407) 4231.

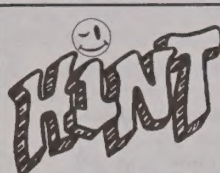
Closing date Friday 12 May

We very much welcome applications from people with disabilities

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

Did you know that *Disability Now* is a non-profit making newspaper and welcomes donations.

If you can help, write to the editor, *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London WIN 4EQ

 **Health Information for Nottingham Teenagers**

Do you enjoy a challenge? Are you looking for a new career development? Do you want to be part of a new model of creative working? HINT is working towards the opening of BASE 51.

Base 51 is a new, exciting development in Nottingham and is to be a full time drop-in centre for young people. The structure of the centre is an independent and autonomous project drawing on a multi agency base of support and funding. The centre will be targeted at all young people aged between 12 and 25, of all races, sex, and regardless of their sexuality or ability, who have limited access to, or use of, existing social, recreational and/or health services. Counselling, recreational, legal and educational services, together with specialised health services will be provided. HINT is currently looking for the following staff for Base 51:

CENTRE MANAGER
£17,898 - £19,461 p.a.

We are seeking a dynamic imaginative manager who can lead a multi-agency team in creating and developing this new centre. Your duties will include professional guidance and supervision of staff in the centre and overall responsibility for the programmes and use of the centre. You will be responsible to the Director of the project for the maintenance of service provision, management of relevant budgets and various programmes within the centre. Other duties will include identifying, responding and acting upon the overall and individual staff training needs, preparing staff rotas and promotion of the centre's work. You will be required in all aspects of work to be committed to the centre's Equal Opportunities policy and actively develop the policy.

Proven managerial ability is essential together with understanding specific needs of young people and the ability and desire to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team. An understanding of budgets, organising and facilitating training sessions and devising methods of monitoring and evaluation are desirable but not essential. Qualifications relevant to the post or formal training in a relevant area is desirable. Please quote ref: CE/THC/2/475.

ADMINISTRATION/ FINANCE OFFICER
£16,545 - £17,529 p.a.

Required to ensure all financial and administrative tasks are carried out with the aims and objectives of HINT, and that systems are in place to enable the monitoring and evaluation of the centre. You will be part of a multi-disciplinary team and responsible to the centre manager. Your duties will include keeping financial records, maintaining accounts, monitoring staff payroll and ensuring all legal requirements associated with HINT are dealt with.

Proven financial and budgetary skills and ability to develop accounting systems, management systems and administrative systems for the centre are essential.

An understanding of fundraising for charities, supervising and experience of working in a setting aimed at providing services for young people are desirable but not essential. You will be required in all aspects of work to be committed to the centre's Equal Opportunities policy and to actively develop the policy. Please quote ref: CE/THC/3/475.

HINT welcomes applications from all areas of the community. Base 51 is a fully accessible building.

For job descriptions and application forms for the above 2 posts please telephone: Chief Executive's Personnel Officer, on Nottm (0602) 823378 (24 hr ansaphone) quoting the appropriate job reference.

Closing date 22 June.

HINT Ltd. is a charitable company. Registered in England and Wales. Regd. office: 51 Glasshouse Street, Nottingham NG1 3LP. Company reg. no. 2672194, Charity reg. no. 1007702.

HINT is working in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham Health Authority and Nottingham City Council.


OFFERING A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES MEANS WE CAN OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

We provide Waltham Forest's multi-cultural community with a wide range of essential services. That means we have a wide range of job opportunities to offer. Whatever your background, skills, or level of experience, we're bound to have a position to suit you. You don't have to be straight out of school or college with a string of qualifications either.

We regularly have vacancies of all types at all levels - office, craft and manual, and professional.

You will find our job advertisements in the local papers, national press and in various trade and professional journals. Information on our vacancies is displayed at local Job Centres, and details are also circulated to community groups within the Borough.

Contact the Recruitment Officer on 081 527 5544 for our Job List, which is updated each week. Or you can pick up a copy from the Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF, or from other public offices and libraries. The Job List is also available on tape, upon request.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF
 **Waltham Forest**

Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

For a copy of the Job List return the coupon to The Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF.

Name _____
Address _____
DN

Moving House?

Do not forget to let the subscriptions department know your new address and post code.

Tel: 071-383 4575.

An exciting new initiative in Milton Keynes, jointly funded by MK & North Bucks TEC and Milton Keynes Borough Council requires a

DISABILITY NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR
(circa £15,000)

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing, establishing and co-ordinating a network of employers and service providers, with the aim of increasing training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Milton Keynes.

We are looking for someone with the proven ability to negotiate at managerial level with both the private and charitable/service sectors to match individual skills and potential to employment or training opportunities.

You will have a keen awareness of disability and employment issues and the experience to effectively promote the needs of people with a range of disabilities.

You will preferably be educated to 'A' level standard, have worked for a minimum of two years at a junior or first management level and possess the following:

- * excellent communication, organisational and negotiation skills
- * keyboard, computer and telephone skills
- * ability to work independently and on own initiative
- * marketing and promotional skills
- * a good general knowledge of the local area
- * your own transport


WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND WILL CONSIDER OPERATING THE POST ON A JOB-SHARE BASIS


The post has resulted from a multi-agency initiative between service providers and employers and as such will be managed by Remploy Interwork and located at V.A.G. (United Kingdom) Ltd.

Application will be by CV sent to:
Dee Burkill, Personnel Manager, V.A.G. (United Kingdom) Ltd,
Yeomans Drive, Blakelands, Milton Keynes MK14 5AN.

Closing date for applications: 20th June 1992

The post is offered initially on a one year renewable contract.

 **MILTON KEYNES & NORTH BUCKS TRAINING & ENTERPRISE COUNCIL**

 **MILTON KEYNES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Disability And Equality At Work

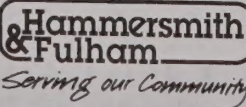
Hammersmith and Fulham is committed to increasing the number of disabled people in our workforce, so that it more accurately reflects the community we serve.

At present, disabled people are under-represented at every level of employment with us: through a range of positive action initiatives, this is something we intend to improve.

One of our practical measures to help us achieve this goal is a job vacancy register which is free of charge to disabled job seekers.

We also have a policy that guarantees an interview to any disabled applicant who meets the minimum criteria for a particular job; an essential user car allowance for disabled employees who are unable to use public transport; and practical support and assistance at every stage of the recruitment process.

If you have a disability, are interested in working for Hammersmith and Fulham, and would like to receive our job vacancy list on a regular basis, please complete the coupon below and return it to the Equalities Unit, Human Resources, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Town Hall Extension, King Street, London, W6 9JU.

 **Hammersmith & Fulham**
Serving our Community

I would like to receive the job vacancy list

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DN



NEWARK & SHERWOOD
COLLEGE

LECTURER IN VIOLIN MAKING AND REPAIRING

(This is a half post complementing
an existing job sharer. Salary - 50%
of £10,704 - £19,401 per annum)

to join the staff of this expanding College. You will be a member of a
small team involved in the delivery of full-time courses in the School
of Violin, Woodwind and Piano Technology.

Applications would be particularly welcome from women who are
currently under-represented on the staff of the School.

Newark and Sherwood College is striving to
become an Equal Opportunities Employer.

For further details and an application form please contact:- The
Principal's Secretary, Newark and Sherwood College, Friary Road,
Newark, NG24 1PB. Telephone: (0636) 705921.

Closing date for applications - Friday 3rd July 1992.

COURSES

Community Care

Developing Positive Partnerships: A Two Day Seminar

Disability Matters Ltd is a well established organisation currently
offering Disability Awareness and Equality Training to a wide range
of clients in the private and public sectors. Group discussion and
role play will assist delegates in achieving a greater understanding
of the needs of service users and develop the skills, positive
attitudes, and confidence to communicate with, and ensure the needs
of disabled people and carers are accurately assessed and met.

Building on the success of previous seminars, we are planning a
series of 2 day courses designed specifically to meet the needs of
managers, practitioners, service providers and support staff charged
with implementing the requirements of the Act.

The seminars will be held at strategic locations during 1992:

3-4 June Southampton 16-17 June London 1-2 July Bristol
21-22 July Cardiff 18-19 August Coventry 15-16 September Liverpool
29-30 September Norwich 14-15 October Leeds
28-29 October Newcastle 11-12 November Edinburgh

Areas to be covered in implementing the Act include:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| * OPEN COMMUNICATION | * ACTIVE LISTENING | * DEFINING OUTCOMES |
| * USERS AND CARERS | * RESISTANCE TO CHANGE | * DISABILITY ETIQUETTE |
| * RESOLVING CONFLICT | * PUBLISHED COMMUNICATION | * ROLE PLAY |
| * SEXUALITY | * AWARENESS | * ACCESS |
| * IMAGES OF DISABILITY | * INDEPENDENT LIVING | * DIGNITY WITH RIGHTS |
| * CHOICE AND CONTROL | * MEDICAL OR SOCIAL MODEL | * DOUBLE DISCRIMINATION |

Developing Positive Partnerships

For further details contact **Disability Matters Ltd.**
Berkeley House, West Tytherley, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 1NF.
Tel 0794 41144 Fax 0794 41777

Cost per delegate £285 plus VAT, Venues will be fully accessible

Please send further details to: DNG

Name Position

Address

Tel

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Gresham, Kingslea
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Fax: 071-237 8019.

Deadlines for July
issue: booking by
12 June, camera
ready artwork/copy
by 17 June.

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Liverpool
2. Judith Ward
3. For awarding themselves
big pay rises in a recession
4. Because a former girlfriend
revealed he had a son
5. Chris Patten
6. Marlene
Dietrich
7. Germany
8. Benny Hill and Frankie
Howerd
9. India
10. Los
Angeles

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

- ACROSS: 1. Extinguisher
7. Imprint 8. Zone 9.
Erogenous 12. Moped 13.
Era 14. Is 15. Gran 16.
Ceres 19. Asterisk 21. Rivet
22. Acumen 23. Golly 24.
Sip
DOWN: 1. Epidemic 2.
Tip-top 3. Nailed 4.
Unthoughtful 5. Sizes 6.
Roedean 10. Rose 11. Gere
13. Ensigns 17. Revel 18.
Satay 20. Keep 21. Rug

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

At
The National College
for Students
with Physical and
Sensory Disabilities



Hereward College
of Further Education,
Bramston Crescent,
Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW
Telephone: (0203) 461231
Fax: (0203) 694305

CHILDREN'S SERVICES BRANCH CO-ORDINATOR

DG4 £11,652 - £13,652 pro rata. Ref CSB194
35 hours per week, permanent post.

NURSERY OFFICERS

DG3 £10,422 - £11,652
39 hours per week, permanent posts
Ref CSB164 Barnhill Day Nursery
Ref CSB219 Hallam Day Nursery

We at the Children's Services are very proud of our track record. We see progress as a
continuous aspect of our work. We are therefore committed to ensuring that all children
have the best possible childcare, we believe this includes ensuring that our staff reflect the
multi-racial community that Manchester is so enriched with. At the moment black people are
very much under-represented. We would therefore like to particularly encourage applications
from black people.

What Manchester City Council Can Offer You:

- * flexible working hours
- * probably the best workplace childcare scheme in the country
- * job share
- * good maternity, paternity and special leave provisions.

Applicants must hold a relevant qualification in childcare or Early Year Education (e.g.
NNEB, CSS, CQSW, SEN, SRN, B. Tec, B.Ed) for the nursery posts.

Application forms and further details are available from the Chief Education Officer,
Children's Services Branch, Education Offices, Crown
Square, Manchester M60 3BB. Tel. 061 234 7035.
Minicom users only 061 234 7120.
Closing date 22nd June 1992.

MANCHESTER
City Council

Manchester City Council is an Equal
Opportunity Employer, and we
positively welcome applications from
women and men, regardless of their
racial, ethnic or national origin,
disability, age up to 65, sexuality or
responsibilities for dependants.

Disability Now

The campaigning
newspaper for people
with all kinds
of disabilities

Please **SUPPORT DN** by **SUBSCRIBING NOW**

DISABILITY NOW SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Please return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent,
FREEPOST 17 London W1E 3HU with your remittance
made payable to
DISABILITY NOW. No stamp is needed.

NAME BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE

Please tick ☒

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Organisations / One year (12 issues) £15 ☐
authorities etc. Two year (24 issues) £29 ☐

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I/We enclose Cheque/PO ☐

A voluntary donation towards costs £ ☐

I authorise you to charge my VISA ☐ ACCESS ☐
Account No.

Expiry Date ____ / ____ Signature

Telephone ACCESS/VISA account. no. to (071) 383 4575

Disability Now is a non-profit making publication. It is sent
free to disabled people on low income if they let us know.

* Multiple copies
2 copies £24, 3 copies £36, 4 copies £48, 5 copies £60, 6 copies £72,
10-50 copies £100, 51-100 copies £125. One year (12 issues) only.

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access courses in Media and Communications, Arts,
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Centre, Computer and 'State of the Art' Graphics Suites,
Art and Photography Studios, Television and Video
Production unit.
- ☒ Newly established business start-up opportunities.

Hereward
COLLEGE

GPs save money on epilepsy patients

Doctors and pharmacists are putting people with epilepsy at risk by switching them from one drug to another, often to save money, says a new report from the British Epilepsy Association (BEA) that coincided with National Epilepsy Week (18-23 May).

Information director Brian Chappell said some doctors and pharmacists do not realise how important it is for patients to stick to the same brand. "It is unacceptable that people should have their quality of life put at risk in this way."

Another BEA report finds that poor medical care can seri-

ously affect the employment chances of people with epilepsy and argues that better management by doctors would lead to better job prospects.

The Government should provide a specialist service, says Brian Chappell. "We want clinics on the lines of those available to diabetics, to control seizures and allow people to live a normal working life."

A £1m appeal has been launched to look at the practical management of epilepsy. Research fund chairman Dr Stephen Brown said: "Epilepsy has been the Cinderella of the medical world for too long."

A European Epilepsy Data Service (EPDATA) will provide computerised research information to keep health professionals up-to-date.

*The National Society for Epilepsy (NSE) celebrated its centenary last month with an associate membership scheme for patients and professionals. They will get news of research and advances in treatment.

Epilepsy and the Experience of Employment, £10, tel: (0532) 439393. EPDATA, tel: (0532) 444798, 12.30pm-4.30pm, weekdays. NSE, tel: 024 073991.



He's a winner: Andrew McRobie, 8, from Cedars School (Northern) Gateshead won the Figaro Trophy "for endeavour and sportsmanship" at the BSAD/NatWest National Mini Games last month, which attracted 160 disabled children from 17 schools. GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Disability shock

Northern Ireland has more disabled people than anywhere else in the UK, according to the first Government survey. 201,000 adults (17.4 per cent) have some form of disability compared to 14.2 per cent in England, Wales and Scotland.

"There are inescapable resource implications for the Government," says Robin Mullan, director of the umbrella group Disability Action, who is calling for more research into the reasons why.

Hospice wants £2m

The Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) needs £2m to build a hospice and £700,000 to cover the first-year running costs.

CHAS director Nancy Blaik said: "The hospice would provide respite care and family breaks as well as support when the child is dying. There are six such hospices in England, but none in Scotland."

CHAS, tel: 031-220 8211.

Red routes: no need to fear

Fears among disability groups including the Greater London Association of Disabled People (GLAD) that Government plans to extend a pilot red route scheme in London will cut parking spaces for disabled people, have been challenged by an assistant to the Traffic Director for London.

Martin Low, who has special responsibility for disabled people, says the pilot scheme added parking spaces overall,

and plans for the 370-mile network as well as new guidance for local authorities on parking and traffic management, to be announced by the Transport Secretary soon, have profited from the views of disability groups, eg RADAR.

He welcomes contact with disability groups: "We want a scheme that will meet the needs of disabled people."

His direct line is 071-233 0061.



The Ford Escort has always been one of the best selling cars in the Motability scheme, and the latest Ford Escort should be no exception.

Although only slightly wider than its predecessor,

it's considerably roomier inside. Shallower sills and taller doors that open wider, make getting in and out easier, particularly when you have awkward items to carry, such as a foldaway wheelchair.

When we designed the new Escort, we considered every kind of family.

Height adjustable front seat belts ensure all occupants travel comfortably, and there's also a remote release (on L models and above) for the new lower and wider tailgate.

Another creature comfort is power assisted steering, available for the first time as an option (1.6 litre engine models only).

For more information fill in the coupon opposite, or call freephone 0800 252 983.

Alternatively, contact one of our Motability specialists (you'll find one at almost every Ford main dealership). They'll also be able to give you details of the special Escort for disabled drivers.

Remember, you don't have to be a disabled driver

to qualify for the Motability scheme. In fact you don't have to be disabled at all. If you have a friend or someone in your family who is disabled you simply have to be nominated by them to act as their 'chauffeur'.

Ford Motor Company, FREEPOST, Dept EWA, St. Mary's Green, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3BR. Please send me the Motability scheme details.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

